

# The African Violet Magazine

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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# THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

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## TO REGISTER PLANTS

Boyce M. Edens, Chairman,  
Committee on Registration  
2694 Lenox Rd. S. E., Atlanta, Ga.

## The Editor Says:

Dear Members: An extra special effort  
will be made to have the December maga-  
zine on its way before the Christmas rush  
begins. Do give your copy time to reach  
you . . . before writing in about it.

I had hoped for more responses on our  
"lost members" than I have had to date.  
Won't you read the list over, and let me  
hear from you? I am most anxious to  
send them their magazines. Please help.

A continued article on Gesneriaceae  
by Louise Smouse will begin in the next  
issue. Daisy Jones will have some inter-  
esting facts for you on the method, success,  
ease and satisfaction of using chemical  
pots. Jean Hilliard will tell you about  
growing saintpaulias in bubble bowls and  
photographs of special arrangements from  
the Memphis and Shelby County Society  
show will be featured. As usual our  
regular staff will have their customary  
fine articles.

So until December!

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

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## CONVENTION

### PICTURES NOT IN MAGAZINE

4 Luncheon Pictures — Nos. 18, 4, 13, 15  
6 of Plant Exhibit — Nos. 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 8  
1 of Bulletin Board — No. 6.

These pictures may be had for \$1.50  
each. Order direct from Metzger &  
Metzger, 3302 Montgomery Road, Cincin-  
nati 7, Ohio.

— Editor

# The Presidents Message

## Growth and Progress Report



Growth and progress are two essentials in the forward-march of any sound organization program such as ours. Certainly we have grown in sturdy stature, slowly at times but steadily, since we started our forward-march of progress in November 1946. Then, there were ten interested and enthusiastic Organization Members present in Atlanta, Georgia, when the Society was established. During the two succeeding years the membership has grown at the rate of well over a thousand new members each year. A recent count of our membership, which changes from day to day in number, places the total at 3,200.

Accompanying this issue of the Magazine is the First Supplement issued which contains a list of our entire membership at June 30, 1949.

We sincerely hope that this list will serve as a helpful and friendly introduction of each one of our members to all the rest. We hope, too, every reliable grower and dealer of African violets will make their latest retail catalogs and price lists available to each one of the members. Naturally we are gratified to be able at this time to print this list, in geographical form, and we are confident it will be helpful in other ways to our members and advertisers.

Another progressive step forward in our progress is the establishment, June 1949, of our Registration Service which becomes a permanent service of the Society. It will be conducted by a Committee on Registration with Mr. Boyce M. Edens as Chairman. I unhesitatingly predict that this new service of the Society will do much towards helping to smooth-out some of the wrinkles that have gathered in the hitherto uncontrolled maze of African violet names. We seek the hearty corporation of everyone in the operation of this service.

Recent information, compiled on the operation of our Homing Pigeons, indicated more than a thousand different people throughout the Country participating as correspondents to the Pigeons. Taking cognizance of the fact that a considerable number of the participants in the various homing pigeons are not members of the Society, our Board of Directors has authorized that new participants in all Homing Pigeons, After July 31, 1949, shall be members of the Society. This action, taken in the interest of the entire membership of African Violet Society of America, is certainly another step forward in our progress.

A further progressive step has been taken by our Board of Directors in the appointment of a special committee to re-draft our By-laws, so as to bring them more in line with the numerous newly-developed needs of the Society. Mrs. Arthur Radtke is Chairman of this Committee. She will welcome your co-operation in this task.

During the comparative short time the Society has been in operation it has become increasingly apparent that a system of appropriate awards should be set up that would recognize improved types of African violets that are introduced from year to year. Then, too, it has developed that similar awards should be made to those who render really outstanding meritorious service in the cause of the African violet. Our Board of Directors has authorized the appointment of a Committee on Awards to make recommendations governing all such awards the Society may make in the future.

The resignation of Elsie Freed as Conductress of the Homing Pigeons has been accepted with sincere regret. Her services to the Society both in the establishment and conduct of the Pigeons has been exceedingly valuable both to the Society and to the hundreds of individuals who participate in the Pigeons.

We acknowledge again, with expressions of deepest appreciation, the magnificent services of our genial, capable President-elect, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, in the organization and conduct of the past two Annual Conventions and Exhibits, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Cordially,

Your President,

Alma Wright.

# RAISING QUALITY AFRICAN VIOLETS

H. G. Harvey

(Mr. Harvey kindly gave the editor this copy of his talk at the convention.)

I am here representing the little fellow in this African Violet procession. There are a lot of little fellows, men and women, in this big hobby of ours. It is sort of like Abraham Lincoln's story about the poor people, — the Lord must love the little fellows, because he makes so many of them. But you do not have to feel sorry for them. The quality of Violets raised in kitchen windows is traditional, and people try to explain part of it, but more important, to my way of thinking, is the fact that the housewife watches those plants in the kitchen, she studies them, tends to them, gets to know their likes and dislikes; in short, she puts in the close and continuous attention that is the fundamental basis of quality raising of violets.

So let's run through some of the essentials of African Violet culture from the point of view of quality rather than quantity production.

## LIGHT.

The first thing I want to talk about is light, because that seems to me to be the most important and the most baffling element of the entire subject. Three times in the past three years, I have been forced to move my violets to entirely new locations, and I am bruised, battered and sore from trying to settle upon locations where the lighting is satisfactory. My violets, too, are bruised, battered and sore. I, like you, have raised violets in every exposure there is, North, South, East and West, and I know that it can be done with proper adjustment of curtains and distance from the window. But I can not look at a place today and say in advance what should be done to make that place satisfactory for the violets. But the violet knows. Put one in there, and in a week, it will tell you whether the lighting is satisfactory or not. The trouble is, that we do not believe what it is saying, if it is contrary to our pre-conceived ideas. We argue with it, and in the meanwhile our violet gets sicker and sicker, until we have a serious condition on our hands. Yellow leaves mean too much light, and if we pay attention to the first lightening of the leaves, we have time to do something about it. Dark green leaves - beautiful foliage - but few or no flowers mean too little light. Incidentally, the lighting that is best for flowers is too much for the leaves, and lighting that is best for the leaves is not enough for the flowers so, that the in between compromise is a quite narrow band. I say that any direct, raw sunlight is not good, although the plants will accept a little weak, morning sunlight unscreened, without too much protest, but mine have convinced me differently.

I have a location now, which my violets say they will accept, although they consider it a little on the sunny side, and they

have warned me that any increase in light will be objectionable. Well, here it is spring, with the summer coming on and the sun getting higher in the sky every day. So my problem is to measure the illumination I have now, and to watch it to see if it increases any. Now, our photographic friends have a light meter that they use to determine how much exposure to give a film. The standard way of doing this is by measuring what they call the reflected light; they point the meter at the picture just like they do the camera, and read what they get. But the real high brows, going in for color photography, where you must be accurate, have hit upon what they call the "incident light" method. They put an attachment on the eye of their meter, to sort of average out the light, and then they put the meter right where the picture is, and then read the pointer. That method, whether it is best for the picture maker or not, is just what I want to tell how much light my violet is getting. I believe it is even better than the reading obtained with the regular lighting engineer's foot candle meter, since I think the integration or averaging out is better, although the figures you get are entirely different. So, the trick is to get one of your photographic friends to assume he is going to take a picture of your violet, and get his light meter reading by the "incident light" method. Then have him tell you what that reading is, and quit there, instead of twisting his dials and calculating the thing to come up with the aperture and exposure time. The trouble is, you will have to get him to do that four or five times during a sunny day, so you can get the maximum and the average reading.

I did that with my rather sunny location. I got 60 foot candles maximum, with an average of 35. The average was from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Then I went over to my daughter's, and measured her location the same way. Now, her location is on the shady side, since she is putting great emphasis on foliage, trying to get as nearly perfect leaves as possible. Incidentally, she is the one who should be talking to you about raising quality violets instead of me, as she is doing a much better job than I am. Anyway, she had a maximum of 20 foot candles, with an average of 14. So, until I know better, I am going to say that a proper location for African Violets, as measured with a photographic light meter by the incident light method, will give a maximum reading of not over 60 foot candles, and an average value over an eight hour period of between 15 and 30. Neither of my locations had any direct sunlight at any time - by that, I mean that there was translucent material between the plants and the sun at all times - so it may be that my maximum can be exceeded for a short time without damage. Anyway, I am going home and cut down the average in my location from 35 to 20.

## HUMIDITY

I have a working hypothesis on this humidity situation which may or may not be correct, but it gives the right answer. My theory is that the violet wants all the humidity it can get; it can't be too high. The trouble is, however, that the fungi and bacteria that cause the various sorts of rot - crown rot, stem rot, leaf rot and the like - also like a high humidity. The violet can stand a lower humidity than can the fungi, so the trick is to get all the humidity you can for the violet, without getting enough to encourage the fungi too much. Working from this, you come up with a value of humidity between 40% and 60%. Less than 40% is too dry for the violet, over 60% you are in danger of rot. This is for mature plants. Youngsters seem to be able to fight off the rots easier than the older ones; my experience seems to indicate that plants under a year old can take and enjoy humidities up to 70% and starting leaves like up to 80%, - that is why you put them in an aquarium.

So far, all is serene. If humidiguides were as accurate as thermometers, all would be sweetness and light on the humidity front. But they are not. I would very much like to give you my frank opinion of humidiguides, but I observe that there are a few ladies present today, and that imposes such a handicap on my expression of my unvarnished opinion that I guess I had better not start. The wet and dry bulb type is O.K. as far as continued accuracy is concerned. This is the thing that consists of two thermometers side by side, with a glass "hicky" underneath, from which a wick runs up to the bulb of one of the thermometers. You fill the glass with water, and it runs up the wick to keep the bulb of one of the thermometers wet. Then you blow an electric fan on this wet bulb to cool it off, and read the two temperatures, the wet bulb temperature and the dry temperature. Then you follow the directions, turning a cylinder full of numbers which is in the place between the two thermometers, reading the proper places, and come up with the relative humidity. That is all right, but it is a nuisance. Also, you cannot use it in the house where you are maintaining humidity by a pebble tray under your plants or something of the kind. This gives what Helen Van Pelt Wilson so poetically calls an "aura" of humidity surrounding your plants, and when you turn this electric fan loose, it tears that "aura" all to shreds.

So you have to use the dial type, where a pointer reads the per cent humidity directly, and right there your trouble begins. Those things won't stay accurate more than two months at the outside. Generally, they gradually get to reading lower and lower, until finally they will say you have 20% humidity at a time when everything is just dripping moisture. You have to recalibrate them. This is done by setting the dial type up along side the thermometer type, and getting the reading on both of them. I pry the front off of the dial type I have with a screw

driver, so I can get at the back of it, where there is a little lever that will move the pointer until it reads correctly. The kid in your neighborhood who takes clocks apart and tinkers with the radios can do the same thing, or failing that, you can just memorize the difference and go by that. But a month or two later, you will have to do the same thing over again. However, this humidity thing is so important that it is well worth worrying about.

## FERTILIZER

I regret to say that one has to use fertilizer to raise quality plants. The reason that I say "regret" is that fertilizers are dangerous. I believe that more plants have been ruined by injudicious application of fertilizers than have been helped by their judicious use. Nevertheless, for real good flowers, fertilizers must be used, so we might just as well start in, get our feet wet, and learn by hard experience what to do and what not to do. In fertilizer work, it is distinctly not true that "if a little is good, more is better". As a general rule, start off with one fourth of the application that the directions on the package recommends. If that seems to work, you can cautiously build up to about one half of the recommendation, but, if you go beyond that, you are on your own, and cannot hold me responsible. As another general rule, do not fertilize sick plants. Fertilizers are to make good plants better, not to make sick plants well. Also, young plants do not want fertilizer. I think it is a good idea not to use any booster fertilizer before the first blooms. In my personal technique, I do not fertilize until the plants are in four inch pots, which is an automatic way of not fertilizing until the plants are grown up and can take it.

The individual fertilizing technique must be worked out for each individual case. It depends upon the potting soil used and the method of watering. I am using a relatively deficient soil, one third woods dirt and 1/50 of the total volume of sheep manure being the only elements in the soil that feed the plants. I am using top watering, so it is convenient for me to supply my fertilizer by dissolving it in the water. My plants crave phosphate like I crave strawberry shortcake. They also like potash very much, and Hyponex seems to be as good a source of potash as any I have found so far. They are not at all interested in nitrogen, probably because of the sheep manure in the soil. My fertilizing regime goes this way. One Saturday, I use B-1 vitamin solution, the "minimum dosage" recommended by the manufacturer. The next Saturday, I use superphosphate, ¼ teaspoon to a quart of water. The third Saturday, I use B-1 again, and the fourth Saturday it is Hyponex at the rate of ¼ teaspoonful to the quart. Then I start over again. There has to be a watering with plain water between each fertilization, primarily to wash out the excess of the previous fertilizer, since I do not want the stuff to pile up in the pots on me. This arrangement

seems to work for me. It is adapted to my top watering and to my relatively poor soil. It seems to work with bottom watering, although in this case, I substitute a thorough top watering, with plain water - really a flushing out of the pot - for one of the B-1 applications. However, this bottom watering is a new venture with me, and I have not tried it long enough to be able to say anything about it.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

There are a couple of minor but important points that I would like to discuss a bit. The first is suckers. Cut 'em off quick. I am committed to single crown plants. I am just built that way, I can't even talk about multiple crown plants! And I want the plants to grow the way I want them to, not the way they feel like doing. If you catch the suckers quickly, you can get rid of them before they effect the symmetry of the plant, and no harm is done. If they go too long, their removal leaves a gap that it takes months to correct. However, for many, even that is preferable to the confusion of a multiple crown. I have never divided a mature plant in my life. Sometimes, after a period of neglect (we all have them) the sucker leaves cut off were so big I could use them as leaf cuttings, and I have developed new plants from them. But a pair of long handled manicure scissors is a necessary tool for the African Violet grower, along with the tooth picks, hairpins, aluminum foil and cotton batting that we all use.

The other point is so elementary that I hesitate to mention it. Turn your plants. They grow toward the sun and will grow more on the sunny side than on the shady one, so that an unsymmetrical plant is produced. After a while, this dissymmetry becomes permanent, — so turn them often. It seems ridiculous to even talk about this, but I see so many plants, otherwise beautiful, which have been spoiled by the omission of this simple precaution, that I feel it should be emphasized again.

#### CONCLUSION

This African Violet hobby of ours is a lot of fun. It is so large that it has a number of facets or sides, which provide different enjoyments or pleasures, so that any individual can find his particular pleasure somewhere in the group. Collecting different varieties is a lot of fun. So is the raising of baby plants from leaves, watching them develop and grow. Hybridizing, originating new varieties, gives a very real pleasure. Making new and better friends through the common violet interest, coming to meetings such as this, broadening our circle of human contacts, acquaintances and friends yields intense enjoyment. Not the least of these various pleasures is the growing of specimen plants. After all, the basic object of the entire endeavor is to have a pretty plant, and the successful accomplishment of this ideal produces a thrill that is worth all the work and worry and trouble it takes. It has been a source of a great deal of pleasure to me, and I heartily commend it to you.

## ATTENTION CLUBS

The 1950 AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY CONVENTION will be held on May 12 and 13 at the Bellevue Stratford in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We are extending a cordial invitation to all local African Violet clubs to take an active part in the convention. Your club is invited to display plants and year books. Remember, the popularity of your club will increase extensively if it takes part in our program.

If you belong to a local African Violet club, have your president or secretary contact me and give me the following information as soon as possible;

1. Name and addresses of officers.
2. Number of membership in your group.
3. Number of National membership in your club.
4. Do you desire space set aside for your club plant display; remember the space is limited.
5. Will you enter your club year book?

Have your local club help make the 1950 Convention in the Quaker City the greatest success in the history of the African Violet Society of America.

Mrs. R. J. Schadewald, Chairman  
7 Lexington Ave;  
Havertown, Pa.

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# SOLUBLE SALTS

Harriet F. Lawton

As an introduction to this article, I am quoting a definition of "Soluble Salts" as given in the book "Commercial Flower Growing", by Professors Alex Laurie and D. C. Kiplinger of The Ohio State University and published by The Blakiston Company of Philadelphia. This subject has a decided place in Floriculture and can be kept under control if handled in the right way. To quote from this book:

"Soluble Salts: Soluble salts constitute the total soluble organic and inorganic fertilizer materials that are contained in a soil at any given time. Rarely does it refer to the sodium chloride (table salt) content of the soil. There are soluble salts in soil at all times, due to the presence of such major fertilizer elements as nitrates, phosphates, potassium, calcium, etc., and the trace elements of iron, magnesium, aluminum, calcium and numerous others. When the total amount of these fertilizer materials becomes too high, roots are injured and plant growth is impaired. The toxic soluble salt levels vary with the crop and the type of soil; the more organic matter in a soil, the higher the soluble salt concentration may become before injury occurs."

Soluble salts in the correct amounts can be beneficial to plant growth, but in excess they can be decidedly harmful. This may be kept under control in several ways. First, have a complete soil analysis made at your State Experiment Station and ask their advice. They will tell you what is lacking and how to balance your soil for a given purpose.

My introduction to soluble salts was rather a sad one, and it may be of some help to others. A black fibrous loam was purchased at a local greenhouse. It was considered fine for the purpose. (African Violets are heavy feeders.) The foliage of plants was very healthy, but when buds came, it was only to drop after a day or so. Great care was taken to have all growing conditions right (no gas, moist air, right temperature, watering, etc.) but bud drop continued. Finally, looking into the

soil question, I found it was too heavily fertilized — too high a nitrogen content (soluble salts) which can cause bud drop. (However, there are other causes of bud drop as well.) The soil was distasteful to the root system, as the root ball was far too small for the size of the top growth, and roots stopped growing as soon as they reached this new earth. They confined themselves to the soil in the original earth ball. This is just one incident of how an excess of this ingredient may affect plants.

In a case such as the above, the salts might be leached out before potting plants by pouring water on from the top of a container and letting the salts leach away or run through with the water. This process should be repeated three or four times before potting plants. My preference however, was to obtain the right soil and pot plants in that.

If one has the right proportion of salts, then they must be kept somewhat under control, and this may be governed according to the various types of watering. In all kinds of capillary watering, (by constant water-level, glass wicks, and plants watered from the saucer) the action of the water is through the bottom and sides of the pot upwards. With this upward movement of water, the soluble salts are carried from around the root system where they are needed, to the surface of the soil. (Plants watered in this way do not need as much feeding.) Inasmuch as these salts rise to the surface of the pot, it is necessary to carry them back to the root system, and this is done by occasional surface watering. Use warm water and surface water every three or four weeks. Each time this is done, it is a means of feeding the plant. In between times plant food is used according to instructions; and it is suggested that one alternate this with the three or four week surface watering.

For those who water their plants from the top, more frequent feeding is necessary, as some of the salts are leached out and must be replaced.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Not all back issues of the magazine are now in print.

Requests for these must be made on penny post cards and you will be notified which ones are available.

Do not send money until you are notified.

— Editor

## VIOLETS GROW in new, amazing Syco Bowls

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Lansdowne, Pa.

# SHOWS HERE AND THERE

## CONVENTION EXHIBIT

By Floyd Johnson

The Third Annual Convention of the African Violet Society of America, held at Cincinnati April 29th and 30th, was a winner in many ways! It took the Blue Ribbon for largest attendance, as well as for many other reasons, which you will see. No one felt like a stranger very long, as almost immediately you met someone who was in one of your robins or pigeons - or you found a friend from your area and, of course, immediately began a conversation on one or more phases concerning African violets. Many had made previous plans to meet, and it was quite a common thing to find someone inquiring for one of his friends. But even that was not necessary, as you knew you were among friends and all you had to do was smile, and immediately a friendship was made with your neighbor!

Quite a goodly number arrived on Thursday and had the opportunity of visiting greenhouses and other points of interest.

Friday morning at 9:00 o'clock found Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Chairman of the local committee on arrangements, with her able assistants, registering the many who came from far away places to attend the great convention. Planes, trains, busses, and autos brought the multitude (didn't hear of even one hitch-hiker). It was at this desk that you got your meal tickets and received the lovely large badge for identification (an African Violet - of course - and I think a Blue Boy at that). Did see some people with white badges but these were reserved for officers and officials!

Here in the foyer was found a bulletin board, resting on an easel, showing the many pictures that had been used previously in the Magazine, along with other interesting photographs and items. At another spot were shown the many envelopes of the Magazine which were incorrectly addressed and had been returned. Do check this list printed in the magazine to see if there is someone that you know and could give assistance in seeing that they get their magazines. Later - there was a display of all the many photographs which were taken during the convention. If you were at the meetings, it is almost a certainty that you were in at least one photograph. Many left their orders so that they could show the photos to their friends at home. (These can still be ordered).

The first event was the Luncheon meeting at 12:30. After eating a delightful meal, we listened to two young professionals speak at a Symposium on Origination of New and Improved Varieties of African Violets. Mr. William Merkel of Mentor, Ohio, spoke on the above topic "Through Processes of Hybridization and Seeding."

Mr. R. A. Brown, Jr. of Newnan, Ga. spoke on the same topic "Through Processes of Mutation and Subsequent Selection." (The contents of these and other speeches will be found elsewhere in this issue.) Mr. Henry Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio, presided at this meeting.

Three o'clock - Friday afternoon - was a very important time for a good many people. At that time the doors were opened for the exhibit of the newer varieties of African Violets. Yes - there was a little pushing and shoving - then shortly afterwards everybody practically stood still and looked with envy and awe. Of course, they all wanted the newest ones and those just weren't to be had -- as yet

J. A. Peterson & Son of Cincinnati, Ohio, showed many of the better varieties and some were in "Supreme". They have an outstanding variety "Kay's Quilted" which will be introduced some time in the future.

Yoars Houseplant Nursery of Bunker Hill, Indiana exhibited many fine varieties.

R. A. Brown & Sons Co. of Newnan, Ga. brought Old Lace, Raggedy Ann, and several of the dwarf forms which proved to be very interesting.

Tinari Floral Gardens of Bethayres, Pa. displayed the new Fischer doubles which took the eye of many of us. Pencils jotted down "Double Margaret, Double Orchid and others" and one could see determined looks that they "must" have these.

Good and Reese, Springfield, Ohio, exhibited five new duPonts which were truly outstanding. They were indeed new as they didn't have names as yet and went under the captions of "duPont #1, duPont #2, etc. "Now that is what I would call an African Violet!", exclaimed one eager beaver (woman, I mean). "I absolutely must have one of those but which one?" - "Let me see - - " Then a pitiful cry came from the rear - "Lady, will you please move on?"

C. Merkel & Sons of Mentor, Ohio, showed many of their beautiful violets. Merkel's Giant Blue was introduced with exceptionally large dark blue flowers. Mentor Boy and Dark Blue Bird were there along with several others.

Uleries of Springfield, Ohio exhibited a number of their fine unnamed seedlings. Mr. Slough in charge.

One of the highlights of the convention was the Amateur Seedling exhibit. These violets were very ably judged by Phyllis Farrell, Ferne Kellar and Mrs. Frank Tinari. Competition was very keen as all of the plants were outstanding and showed promise of being some of our newer varieties. Some had even been named. The first award was given to Mrs. Z. C. Layson who was presented with a silver loving cup.



The Exhibit was well attended . . .



Members were most interested . . .



Looking over the Amateur Seedling Exhibit.

Second award was given to Mrs. Ross Swinford; third to Mrs. C. T. Hughes; fourth to Mrs. C. T. Hughes; fifth to Mrs. Helen Pochurek; sixth to Mrs. Elsie Freed and seventh to Mrs. C. T. Hughes; The last six winners were given Sycobowls as prizes. This is a feature which has great promise and should lend encouragement to the many amateurs who are indeed doing their share in bringing out newer and better varieties.

The annual banquet was "one of the main attractions" and certainly proved just that. After partaking of a sumptuous meal, we settled back in our chairs for a very delightful address by Dr. Alex Laurie, Head of Floriculture of the Ohio State

University. He spoke on "African Violets as I Know Them", and he really did know them! ! He spoke with authority, as his department has been working with African Violets for some time and they have tried out many of the "do's and don'ts". A colored movie was shown at the close of the banquet on "Interesting Activities in Cincinnati". Colored slides of African Violets were also shown and proved to be very interesting. Our African Violet President very capably presided.

Saturday morning arrived with early breakfast at 8:00. Yes, many were late! This proved to be another popular gathering and three experienced growers spoke on "The Easiest and Most Practical Ways to



Looking over some of the Commercial Exhibits.

Produce Full Blooming Specimen Plants of African Violets". Mrs. Raymond Crotty, Huntington, West Virginia. Mr. Harvey, Dunwoody, Ga., and Mrs. Z. C. Layson of Maysville, Kentucky, offered many ways which would be of help to us. Mrs. Clarissa Harris of Los Angeles, California, presided.

After the breakfast, many took the busses to Peterson's Greenhouses, and, judging by all the boxes and packages that came back, I think that they enjoyed their trip.

Saturday Noon Luncheon, with Alma

Wright presiding, was the "beginning of the end" of the convention. Too soon we had to trek back to our abodes to dream of another convention in the future. After the luncheon, the Annual business meeting of the Society membership was held. Reports of officers and Committees of the Society were made. Great progress was shown all along the line and the past officers and committees were to be well commended for the splendid work which they had done. Election of the officers for the coming year took place and then - - fond farewells.



## TINARIS DISPLAY VIOLETS IN TWO FLOWER SHOWS

Those attending the Philadelphia Flower Show were thrilled by the display of African violets from the Tinari Floral Gardens, Bethayres, which included forty-five varieties of plants and blooms. For the Tinaris, it was a week of reunion as violets enthusiasts from many states stopped at the booth to discuss the culture of the violets. Membership blanks for the African Violet Society of America were signed.

At the International Flower Show in the Grand Central Palace, New York City, the prize-winning display of African violets

from Tinari Gardens covered an area of twenty-five square feet, there being twenty-five outstanding specimen varieties of the violets. They were exhibited in flower pots and growing in moss-filled crevices of two logs. A pure albino with white leaves and no flowers was the center of attraction. Nine months old seedlings, no larger than a dime, were also shown. A prize of \$25 was awarded. This was the first year that African violets were included in the national show. Tinari Gardens supplied violets for a television show during the week presented by Helen Van Pelt Wilson author of the popular new book, 'The African Violet'.

## MINNEAPOLIS EXHIBIT

The non-competitive display and educational exhibit sponsored by the Minneapolis African Violet Club was held on April 21 and 22, 1949, in the showroom of the Northern States Power Company, 15 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

207 plants, including 35 varieties, were on display, furnished by 40 exhibitors. There were two commercial displays which added greatly to the show. An educational

table showing the methods of propagation, both seed and leaf cuttings, and showing year old plants grown from both methods, was in charge of Mrs. A. H. Adams, Secretary of the Minneapolis Club, and proved to be one of the highlights of the display.

This was the first African violet display in the Northwest and drew many visitors from surrounding states.

## MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY SHOW

The spring show of the Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Society was held in the Memphis Museum on March 26 and 27, 1949. Visitors were attracted from neighboring counties and states to view the display of specimen plants, arrangements and propagation demonstrations.

Guest of honor was Mrs. Robert Wright, Knoxville, Tennessee, President of The African Violet Society Of America, who served as Chairman of Judges for the show.

Staging and decoration of the many long tables were under the direction of Mrs. Edward Toulon. Mrs. John E. Hooper was general chairman.

Sweepstakes winner of specimens was Mrs. W. A. Boyette, 3735 Graves Road, for the variety Red Head. Mrs. W. E. Evans won the sweepstakes on arrangements. Mrs. H. L. McPherson took seven ribbons in the First Bloomers division.

Notable was an albino plant grown by Mrs. Frank Ruffin, Whitehaven, Tenn., who won the most ribbons at the show. She had 10 blue, 3 red and white ribbons. Mrs. J. W. Dickey won 10 ribbons.

Other blue ribbon winners were: Mrs. Robert Bruce, Mrs. Dave Guyton, Mrs. C. W. Seahorn. Mrs. Herbert Coffman, Mrs. C. O. Cook, Sr., Mrs. W. E. Ward, Mrs. Horace Smith, Miss Daisy Jones and Mrs. W. P. Fraser.

Gadsby's Tavern, in Alexandria, Virginia, on May 22nd, was the setting for the Second Annual African Violet Show sponsored by the Metropolitan African Violet Club for the benefit of the Cancer Fund. Alexandria's Bicentennial Celebration was responsible, in part, for the number of States represented by the visitors who registered, for, in addition to the District of Columbia, visitors came from twelve States, including Maine, Texas and California.

Forty exhibitors entered the 282 plants of over 70 varieties that were staged on three-tiered tables covered in white and attractively trimmed in green. Uniform wrapping of all pots in aluminum foil further added to the pleasing appearance of the display.

Mrs. Robert Wright, President of the African Violet Society of America, and Dr. Freeman Weiss, Senior Pathologist, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland, officiated most capably as judges and awarded the following seventeen prizes the first three receiving a compote, candle sticks and gravy boat in silver, respectively:-

Best in the Show, Mrs. A. N. Carter, For Mentor Boy; 2nd Best in Show, Mrs. Geo. Furman, For White Lady; 3rd Best in Show, Mrs. George H. Shelton, For Heart's Desire,



Mrs. W. C. Hope, left, President of the club and Mrs. Frank Ruffin, right, showing her prize winning Pink Beauty Supreme.

Mrs. W. E. Ward served as hostess for the show, her assistant committee including several members of the local club.

Mrs. W. C. Welborn and Mrs. John Pierce were in charge of the commercial growers exhibits.

## ALEXANDRIA SHOW



Left to right: Dr. Weiss, Regina Gottshall, Alma Wright.

Best in Class I, Mrs. D. G. Clever, For Mentor Boy.

Best in Class II, Mrs. L. C. Rosenkrans, For Crinkles.

Best in Class III, Mrs. A. N. Carter, For Blue Eyes.

Best in Class IV, Mrs. A. N. Carter, For Red Head.

Best in Class V, Mrs. L. K. Shakelton, For DuPont Amethyst.

Best in Class VI, Mrs. Avery Rawles, For Pink Beauty.

Best in Class VII, Mrs. Nora Ford, For Imperial White.

Best in Class VIII, Mrs. Nora Ford, For Persian Lilac.

Best in Class IX, Mrs. L. C. Rosenkrans, (Multiples) For White Lady.

Best in Class X, Mrs. T. H. Naylor, (Novelties) For Fantasy - a new break in coloring bearing mottled orchid and blue blossoms.

Best in Class XI, Mrs. Nora Ford, For Double Blue Boy.

Mrs. M. E. Greene's DuPont Blue, with a spread of but 2½ inches carried away the prize for the "smallest blooming plant" and a huge Ionantha won for Mrs. James Corbalis the prize as being the "largest blooming plant" in the Show.

Mrs. Nora Ford, in addition to the above three prizes, also won the Sweet-stakes prize of a waffle iron for the largest number of points, and can be called the "champion exhibitor". Nine Plants were entered by Mrs. Ford and eight awards won, including three additional blue ribbons and two second place.

Two special awards were made by the judges; one for "arrangement" to Mrs. L. C. Rosenkrans for a huge pot containing six Red Heads planted in a circle, and the second was given on McFarland's Blue Warrior for "outstanding foliage", as the plant was not in bloom.

One dozen red roses were presented to Mrs. George H. Shelton for her Heart's Desire, selected by popular vote of the visitors, as being the "favorite plant in the show".

The mantlepice and prize table were beautifully decorated with floral arrangements containing Saintpaulia blooms with other flowers and plant material by Miss Spears.

Among the out-of-town and distinguished guests were Mrs. Arthur Radtke, President-elect for 1950 of the African Violet Society of America; Mrs. Esther Schaldwaid, Director of Second Region; Mrs. Gibson C. Phillips, President of the Richmond African Violet Society (Virginia); Mrs. Homer C. Foltz, President of the Lewistown African Violet Club (Penna.); Mrs. O. W. Richman and Mrs. G. S. Keen, one the present Vice-President and the other immediate Past President of the Salem County African Violet Society, New Jersey; and Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Hughes, of Huntington, West Virginia. Mrs. Hughes was winner of many awards in the Amateur Seedling Class at the recent National Convention in Cincinnati.

## BATTLE CREEK

Battle Creek, Michigan's first African Violet show was held Thursday, April 21, 1949, at the Y. W. C. A., with over 600 visitors signing the guest book. It was sponsored by the Battle Creek African Violet Society of which Mrs. Dale Ferrall is president. Mrs. Ferrall was also show chairman, and in charge of arrangements, assisted by Mrs. Charles Bailey, Mrs. Steinel, Mrs. Maurice Armstrong, Mrs. Harry Theis, Mrs. Blanche Peck, Mrs. Haffenden, and Mrs. Jack Walton.

The 50 entries in the show were from Battle Creek, Augusta and Union City. Judges were Prof. C. E. Wildon and Evan Roberts from the Michigan State College.

Prizes awarded were —

Best Collection of 3 named varieties, Mrs. Geo. Bailey, 1st; Mrs. A. C. Leifso, 1st; Mrs. Faye Haffenden, 2nd; Mrs. Dale Ferrall, 2nd; Mrs. Anna Hall, 3rd.

Best 3 non-blooming, judged for leaf pattern, Mrs. Faye Haffenden, 1st; Mrs. Floyd Shay, 1st.

Pink Group, Miss Marie Little, 1st; Mrs. Hall, 2nd; Mrs. A. H. Steinel, 3rd.

White Group, Miss Little, 1st; Mrs. Steinel, 2nd.

Blue, Orchid and Red Group, Mrs. Floyd Wilkes, 1st; Mrs. Ferrall, 2nd; Mrs. Steinel, 2nd; Mrs. Haffenden, 3rd; Miss Louise Davis, 3rd.

Best Individual plant named, Miss Marion Coffing, 1st; Mrs. Agnes Smith, 2nd; Mrs. Wilkes, 2nd; Mrs. Ferrall, 3rd; Mrs. B. H. Welch, 3rd. Best Individual plant unnamed, Mrs. Ferrall, 1st; Mrs. Hall, 2nd; Mrs. Haffenden, 3rd.

Best Multiple Crown, Mrs. Ferrall, 1st; Mrs. Hall, 1st; Mrs. M. C. Flanders, 2nd; Mrs. J. Harold Peck, 2nd; Mrs. Haffenden, 3rd.

Best collection of 3 baby plants not more than 4 inches across, Mrs. Ferrall, 1st; Mrs. Shay, 2nd; Miss Little, 3rd.

Center of attraction was a large collection of hard to get varieties on display to acquaint the public with the many lovely new varieties available soon.

## COLUMBUS EXHIBIT

Some 4 or 5 hundred visitors viewed the exhibit staged by The Columbus African Violet Society held on the 11 and 12 of June in the ball-room of The Park-View Hotel. Three hundred pots were on exhibit and comprised around fifty different varieties. It was an exhibit to promote enthusiasm with out any classification or prizes given. Plans are under way for a show the date to be announced later.

## ROCHESTER SHOW

The African Violet Society of Rochester and Vicinity held its first show on May 15th at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences. The show was open to the public from 2:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. It has been reported that over 6,000 were in attendance. The register showed visitors from 50 towns of New York State. Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Canada and Nova Scotia were also represented.

There were 325 beautiful plants exhibited in 75 varieties. These were very capably judged by Mrs. Robert Wright of Knoxville, Tenn., President of the African Violet Society of America; Mrs. Dudley Wilson, Interlaken, N. Y. and Mr. Karl E. Lewis of Lockport, N. Y.

Queen of the Show Award (best plant) was given to Mrs. Elmer C. Ace of Honeoye for her lovely plant of Neptune. Mrs. Ace's plant of Duchess was judged as the second best plant of the show. Sweepstakes Award was given to Mrs. John Doell of Webster for winning eight blue ribbons. Other multiple prize winners in the Variety classes were: Mrs. Orrin Doell-Canadaigua, Mrs. Ruth Webster-Port Gibson and Mr. Floyd L. Johnson-Spenceport -- five blue ribbons each. Mrs. Elmer C. Ace of Honeoye had a total of four; Mrs. Charles Anthony of Rochester-three; Mrs. Cornelia M. Johnson-Caledonia, Mrs. Robert Slocumb-Rochester and Mrs. Edith Flory of Geneseo-two ribbons each. Other firsts were widely scattered among the many exhibitors.

A separate section was given to non-members, with the following winning blue ribbons: Mrs. W. DeJonge--blue-purple class; Mrs. H. Honeck--Lavender-Orchid class; Mrs. Everett F. Siller--Pink class; Mrs. Everett F. Siller--White class; Mrs. S. Chase--Two-tone class and Mrs. Edward Ackerman in the Non-blooming class.

Another feature of the show was the Decorative Class, which was very capably judged by Mrs. Harold L. Field and Mrs. Charles McGee of Rochester. The exhibitors had used ingenuity in displaying the fragile blossoms in many ways. There

## FLINT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY SHOW

The Flint African Violet Society held its first spring African Violet show on May 4th, 1949 from 2 to 9 o'clock at the Institute of Arts Bldg. Flint, Mich.

Mrs. Frank Dilley was chairman of the show assisted by Mrs. Wm. Jaynes, co-chairman.

As the violet enthusiasts entered the Willson gallery they saw a veritable fairyland of colors ranging from glistening white thru palest pink, orchid to deepest purple. In all about 125 varieties were shown.



Mr. Floyd Johnson and Alma Wright.

were tiny arrangements in shadow boxes and large displays using African Violets with other blossoms. Terrariums, glass gardens, floating arrangements, corsages and a very novel arrangement of an African Violet plant reposing inside a bird cage while "Dickie" was left on the outside with the thought "Can't keep African Violets from any place". Mrs. Patrick Carlin-Rochester, won two blue ribbons in this class, with the following winning one each: Mrs. H. Harmon, Mrs. Robert Slocumb, Mrs. H. Lyman, Mrs. J. Berend, Mrs. John Hickey, and Mrs. Joseph Weber all of Rochester.

Another very popular feature was a detailed display on propagation. All the "popular" questions were asked and one lady reported that she answered the question "How do I make my African Violets bloom?" no less than five hundred times!

Mrs. Hawley B. Nell of Rochester was Chairman of the show.

The first display was masses of Saint-paulias in their native habitat of ferns, rocks and mosses with a white alabaster fountain in the shape of a wild hyacinth from which perfumed water trickled on the rocks and mosses. Above this fastened to the wall were charts and maps depicting the history of the Saintpaulia from the first Blue Boy and Ionanthe down to the present duPonts, and others.

The Propagation Display was next showing seeds to blooming plants. Leaves were started in seven different rooting media as well as plants in all stages of growth showing different plant foods and fertilizers used.



From left to right: Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Dilley, Mrs. Jaynes.

The African Violet Hospital was unique in that it had actual thrips, mealy bugs, earthworms, etc. in sealed jars (glass). It also showed infested plants in aquariums. Also shown were different insecticides and how to use each one.

Next display took in Water and Exposure exhibit showing the different ways of watering such as sprinkling, glass dish, wick-fed pot. Also different pots, clay, glazed, wick-fed, etc. showing the merits of each. Also shown were plants from different exposures as well as overfertilized plants.

Still another display was African Violets attractively arranged in antique dishes such as bone china tea cup, tea pot, etc. The youngest plant to the oldest were shown. Also scattered throughout the rooms were hundreds of African Violets.

Another display which was most unusual was the handpainted china dishes by one of the Society's members - Mrs. I. E. Clement.

The Second Midwest African Violet exhibit, sponsored by the Omaha African Violet Society, Inc., was held in the Joslyn Memorial, 22nd and Dodge Street, Omaha on March 26 and 27, 1949. The non-competitive display drew an attendance of 8,000 in the two days it was held.

The displays were arranged on two long tables in the center of the room, each built up in tiers and covered with green foil paper. Between these two tables was a variety and propagation table, on which were many new and lovely unnamed seed-

A dinner table featuring "A Maypole Dance of the Dolls" with its maypole in the center of Pink Beauty violet with pastel shades of ribbon streamers attached to various hues of miniature old fashioned dolls marked each place setting.

A blonde maple tier table with six glass shelves holding the following African Violets Ionantha - Trilby - Neptune - Amarantha - Amethyst - Topaz - after which each chapter was named caused a great deal of comment.

A handicraft display consisted of violet hankies, aprons, seals, stationery, ear rings, pins - all of violets - also cookies in the shape of a violet blossom iced with pastel shades.

The high-light of the show, however, was a large table in center of the room, the background being hung with cloth of gold with "Say it with Violets" in deep purple letters attached. This display was on "How to Glamorize the African Violet for Special Occasions", by Mrs. Frank Dilley and Mrs. Wm. Jaynes.

An Easter basket held a Blue Girl Amazon.

The Blessed Event was a pottery baby cradle holding a Heavenly Blue African Violet watching over this was a very colorful stork.

Christmas was a sparkling White King African Violet flanked by 6 red tapers in silver candelabra. Valentine Day was represented by a red heart with a white lace doily and red cellophane, holding a glistening White Lady violet.

May Day, a pink and blue crystal basket holding a beautiful Dupont Blue.

Mothers Day, an Ionantha African Violet was used which was flanked by a handpainted violet china plate for mother.

Fathers day was naturally a Redhead violet which was decorated with the following items - cigarettes, cigars, gum, lifesavor mints, golf tees, etc. which were fastened to pipecleaner sticks stuck into the pot.

In the North gallery tea was served from 2 until 4 o'clock.

## MIDWEST SHOW

lings and varieties. Propagation methods and materials used were also shown on this table.

Several hundred red and yellow roses against a back ground of palms lent a festive air to the room.

Much credit for the success of the display goes to Mr. Raymond Gain, who again was exhibit chairman.

Mrs. R. C. Adams is the president of the Omaha Club, which was organized in November 1947.



#### OFFICERS OF OMAHA CLUB AT SHOW

From left to right: Mrs. Nordgren, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Munson.

#### DELAWARE COUNTY SHOW

The African Violet Society of Delaware County held its first show on Saturday April 9, 1949, in the Community Methodist Church in Springfield, Delaware County, Pa.

It was a beautiful day, and 505 violet lovers came to witness the lovely display of 88 blooming specimen plants. All the

members of the club felt well repaid for their efforts by the comments of the visitors.

Mrs. J. Paul Muntz displayed a miniature house and garden featuring African Violets and Mrs. W. L. Becker featured a few of her choice plants in a lovely tier table arrangement.

From left to right — Mrs. Filing, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Schadewald.



# THE EASIEST AND MOST PRACTICAL WAY TO PRODUCE FULL BLOOMING SPECIMEN PLANTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Ethel Crotty

I can answer this in one word — "Greenhouse" — but unfortunately we can not all have them. I might have the Oak Ridge Tenn. growers tell you of their success with their Atom Bomb soil, and quick growing plants.

Seriously, I do want to tell you that your African Violet hobby can bring more pleasure to you and to more people than any other hobby I have ever known. Our sick friends are always delighted with a plant and now we have the opportunity to work with them in our Veteran Hospitals. Everyone loves a giver and African Violet people are the most generous givers.

With a few leaves, a little thought and ambition and some good soil, if you choose, you may end up in the commercial world. There is no end to the pleasure you can have or give others by the cultivation of African Violets — you can make it a large world or a small world.

My method for producing Blooming Specimen plants in the shortest time works for me and I hope it will for you too — however if you have a good method, keep it and forget mine.

I propagate by the water method — as soon as the leaf roots, I put it into Vermiculite until I have a small plant but a strong and healthy one. Then I transfer

it to potting soil. I watch for the tiny suckers or offsets and remove them each time with a round toothpick. I keep turning my plants so they will stay symmetrical and beautiful.

Around the middle of last October I started some leaves in water, then put the rooted leaves in Vermiculite. At Thanksgiving time I transplanted into soil. Now they are lovely blooming plants — six and seven inches across with six different stems of blossoms and buds. To me there is nothing one could do that would bring so much pleasure in such a short time.

It is against a woman's vanity to grow old — and it is often said "that a pansy smiles in your face" so we will reverse our smile with African Violets and wear it ourselves when our choicest plants produce their first bloom.

It has also been said that if we were born without a pretty face and still do not have a pretty face at the age of twenty-five, that is to be excused — but if we attain the age of 50 and do not have some pretty feature of the face, we have missed something along Life's pathway. But you will never find it missing in the face of an African Violet grower.

(Mrs. Crotty kindly gave the editor this copy of her talk at the Convention.)

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## ALLERGIC TO YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS?

Harvey Cox

Can a person become sensitive to the African Violet and develop an allergy which will express itself in any one of many forms such as hay-fever, asthma, hives and eczema? It is possible for a person by close association to become hypersensitive to the African Violet, but not in the ordinarily accepted manner. Pollen can be the irritant, but the African Violet is rarely self-pollinating, therefore, the pollen is not air borne but confined to the anthers. Handling flowers that have been shed could result in contact with pollen. Such contact can be avoided by disposing of flowers as they drop. Do not split or crush anthers, to avoid contact with offending pollen.

Another possible factor and probably the most likely is that of house dust that

collects on the hairy surface of the leaves. This hazard can be avoided by keeping the leaves dust free by periodic warm water showers.

The last possibility that comes to mind is actual skin contact with juices exuded from the wound of broken leaf blade or stem. If you are putting down leaf cuttings, then wear rubber gloves; however, an occasional contact from an accidentally broken leaf should not offend.

There is no reason for alarm if you are sensitive to your African Violets, simply try the suggested remedies and continue to enjoy your plants.

(Editor's Note - For Land Sakes!)

## ATTRACTIVE CONTAINERS

Rose Hahn

Why not display your prettiest African Violets in unusual and attractive containers? Try something different! A familiar plant will take on a more glamorous appearance when used in a new way or in a novel setting.

The violets used in the illustrations are growing in small clay pots . . . . . small enough so that it is possible to conceal all the pot in the outside vessel.

Frequent watering and a regular fertilizing program keeps these plants in a healthy condition, and permits their being kept in clay pots small enough to fit inside many kinds of containers.

For suggestions on dressing your Saintpaulia collection for show, look over these pictures and those on the following pages.

Photographs were made by Ross Hahn



1- above- A dignified antique Samovar for a medium blue Mrs. W. K. duPont violet. The color combination is pleasing.



2- Pink Girl in a tall clear beverage glass. Attractive as well as helpful. A plant grown a container such as this may do especially well. The glass holds in the humidity around the clay pot, permits the free circulation of air around the whole plant, and supports the foliage as well.



1- A favorite for a coffee table is this small brass cuspidor. It makes an almost ideal jardiniere for this Orchid Beauty.



2- In a low crystal vase. Blue is shown at advantage. It is a tainer that the plant will.



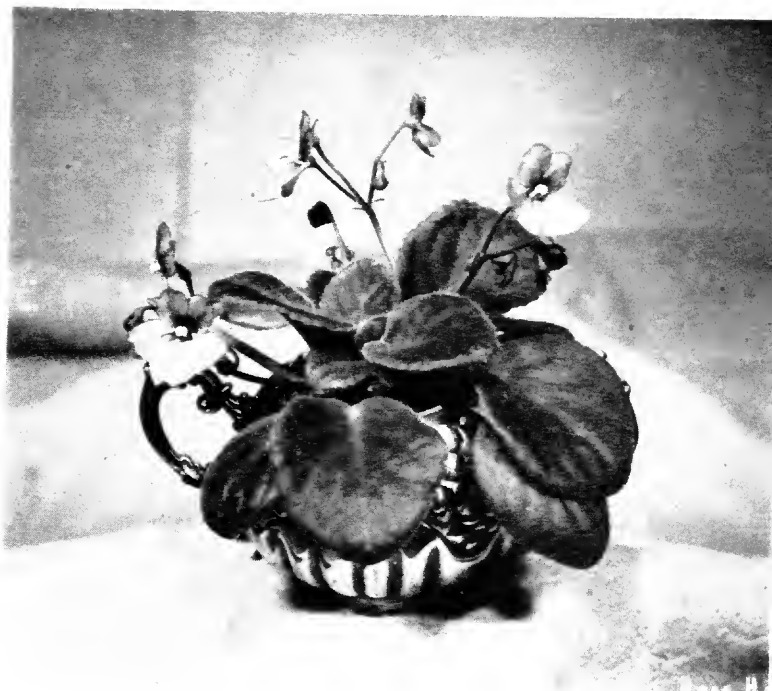
1- This Gorgeous in an antique copper tea kettle seems right at home. The wine flowers and spooned two-toned green leaves are eye catching.



2. White Supreme in a vase with a soft orange-red and a white background.



on holder, Hardee  
age. Another con-  
ems to like quite



3- An old silver sugar bowl makes an inter-  
esting and distinctive setting for a Laven-  
der-Pink duPont seedling.



old sugar bowl  
gold design on



3- Dainty is the Lavender-Pink duPont in  
an after dinner coffee cup . . . white edged  
with gold.

# COMPOST FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leslie George

While we all have our favorite potting mixtures for African Violets - soil, peat moss, and sand; soil, vermiculite, and sphagnum moss; soil plus this; or soil plus that; - nevertheless, the formula invariably begins with soil. We commonly say that it must be rich, so most of us add something to the poor earth available to us - manure, phosphate, bone meal, nitrogenous mixtures of one sort or another, any one of the many complete packaged fertilizers, or else - Compost. This article will deal with the preparation of Compost in small quantities.

First, what is compost and what are the advantages of its use? Compost consists, entirely, of organic substance decomposed by a process of fermentation induced by the action of bacteria and helpful fungi. By "decomposed", we mean that the physical structure of the materials used is broken down into their elementary particles so thoroughly that the original matter is no longer identifiable. Compost supplies organic plant food in its most assimilable form. Made properly, it is free from weed seeds. A growing number of enthusiasts are sold on the principal that its use results in sturdier, more disease-resistant plants.

Compost, prepared according to the specifications of the experts, must be made solely of organic materials. What organic materials are is best defined by outlining first what they are not. They are NOT chemically produced, artificially manufactured fertilizers. Some examples of inorganic fertilizers are the following: nitrate of soda, ammonium sulphate, superphosphate, muriate of potash, and of course, those commercial preparations bought ready mixed and labeled as to their nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash content. Examples of organic materials, on the other hand, are: animal manure, as well as other animal by products such as blood, bone meal, hoof and horn meal, and anything else which was originally part of a living animal; next, all those materials originating in vegetable matter as grass, leaves, cottonseed meal, and what have you; then, those mineral fertilizers not produced by chemical processes, such as ground limestone, phosphate rock in its natural state, dolomite, and other natural mineral products.

Compost is made by piling in a heap, layers of vegetable materials alternated with layers of animal matter, with a little earth and limestone sprinkled over the animal portion. Air holes reaching to the bottom are incorporated as the heap is constructed, or are added after completion. The whole thing, top and sides, is covered with earth or straw to keep the heat and moisture in. As soon as the pile has been built, fermentation begins and heat devel-

ops within it to a temperature of around 160° F. At this stage, heat-resistant bacteria are at work upon the animal and vegetable matter - therefore, it is important that the material be piled loosely and air holes properly installed. At the end of three weeks, the material in the pile is rebuilt into a new heap to one side of its original location. Air holes are made once more, as the oxygen-requiring bacteria are still performing their work of decomposition. Five weeks later the pile is given its final turn. Now, it is not necessary to incorporate air holes, since a new type of bacteria has taken over - a type which does not need oxygen. Four weeks after this final turn the compost should be ready to use.

The above is a sketch description of the manner in which a compost pile is built and the disintegrating action which takes place within it. Let's go on with some detailed instructions for a small pile with original dimensions of five feet square at the base, tapering to three feet square at a height of five feet.

First, determine the location. This should be on bare, level ground convenient to water and protected as much as possible from drying winds. It should be a shady spot - not under a tree but rather in the shade of a building or fence. Mark out the outline of the base of the pile.

Alongside your proposed heap and within easy reach of it, place your materials in separate piles; green matter in one, manure in the next, and earth and lime in the third. The succeeding paragraphs, treating each material individually, will tell you how much of each you will need.

**Green Matter:** Accumulate your green or vegetable matter by itself until you have a pile of it loosely constructed four feet long by four feet wide by four feet high with the sides straight up and down. This green material may be grass, weeds, spoiled hay, straw, vegetable trimmings, and anything else of this sort which decays readily. All materials in this group must be allowed to wilt or partially rot before being incorporated into your compost pile. This is particularly true of leaves. Use last year's leaves and use them as only a percentage of your green elements - one sixth by volume should be about the right proportion. Corn stalks might better be left out altogether; if you have to use them - allow them to decompose previously for several months. Avoid the use of wood substances. As you make this separate pile of green matter, wet it, so that it is uniformly moist. Allow any surplus water to drain off before these materials are built into the compost heap.

**Manure:** Pile your manure three cubic feet, with sides straight up and down. The manure must be the freshest you can obtain. We are used to the term "well-rotted manure", but that is not what we want for a compost heap. We want unrotted manure which will rot in the pile and, in process of rotting, decompose along with itself all the green matter.

**Earth:** You will need enough earth to make a pile in itself three feet by three feet by two feet high. The richer it is the better. It should not be acid for its use in the pile is for the purpose of preventing acidity of the compost. Bacteria cannot perform their function in an acid medium. If you must use woods soil, mix it with enough lime to bring it to an alkaline state.

**Lime:** You will not need much lime. As you build up the successive layers of your compost heap, you will need to sprinkle lime lightly over the surface of about seven layers. You should use agricultural, ground limestone.

Once your materials are in place and in the proper condition for use, you are ready to construct your compost heap. There is one more thing to consider first. You must provide for aeration of the pile. If you prefer, you may build the pile first and poke air holes in it when it is completed. You will have to make three holes six inches in diameter, equally spaced along the length of the center of the pile. A more satisfactory method is to build your heap around three posts, about six inches in diameter, set into the earth in the proper locations before the pile is started. They should be set into the ground loosely enough to be easily removed once the heap is completed.

Assuming that you have done this, begin your pile by laying on the ground a loose six inch layer of your green matter. Follow this with a two inch thickness of manure. Sprinkle lightly with ground limestone. Cover with an eighth of an inch of earth. If materials are not already moist enough, wet them as you proceed but be careful that you do not give them more water than they can hold. Over the earth lay another six inch layer of green materials, then the manure and the earth, repeating until the pile reaches a height of five feet. Make the last layer of manure thicker than the previous layers and the last covering of earth about two inches thick. The sides should then be covered with two inches of soil. As layer follows layer, all four sides of the pile are gradually narrowed so that the heap tapers in toward the center and the finished heap measures about three feet by three feet at the top. The top of the pile should not be level but depressed in the center to catch and hold rainfall.

The purpose of the soil covering for the sides and top is to prevent the heap from drying out and cooling too soon. A straw mulch would do the job better, but, it would have to be correspondingly thicker - about six inches.

Two or three days after completion, the pile will have settled under its own weight to a height of between two and three feet. At this time the posts should be removed carefully to leave three air holes.

Allow the pile to remain as it is for three weeks. In the meantime, there may be visible indications that the pile is fermenting and producing heat. You may see steam rising out of the air holes.

At the end of the three week period, set your posts into the ground again to one side of the original pile in the same relative positions they occupied before. Then turn the pile. This means repiling the material around the posts in their new location in such a way that what was the top, becomes the bottom and what was the outside becomes the inside. This is to ensure uniformity of the finished compost by subjecting all of the material to the higher temperatures to be found in the interior of the heap. It is not necessary to keep the different materials in separate layers.

Five weeks later, reverse the pile once more. At this time you need not insert the posts. The pile is now two months old. It is allowed to "work" for another month, at the end of which time it should be ready to use. If it is not to be used immediately, it may be stored. In this case, it should be covered and turned occasionally during the storage period.

If you want less compost than you would get from the heap described above, try making it in wooden boxes with thinner layers. An inch of green matter to a third of an inch of manure with thin sprinklings of earth and lime would be about the right proportions to use. Turn the compost in the boxes at the same intervals outlined for the five by five pile and follow the same general directions.

Finished compost should be dark brown in color and have a substance that you can "feel". Break up lumps, if any, by working it over with any convenient tool.

Do not attempt to grow African Violets in pure compost. This is so full of fungi that you would be inviting disaster. Compost must be mixed with ordinary garden soil to keep the fungi in check. A half and half mixture should give you the "rich soil" recommended for African Violets. Starting with that, you can add your sand, vermiculite, peat, or sphagnum moss, confident that your finished mixture will contain all the life-giving elements your Violets require.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*\*\*

# GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS UNDER FLUORESCENT LIGHT

Fay Stilwell

In October, 1947, when reports indicated we would have an acute oil shortage in this vicinity before the winter was over, I gave up the idea of a greenhouse and decided to try an experiment that would not require any extra heat, so had a fluorescent light put up in our basement.

I used a regular industrial type fixture about 50 inches long, utilizing two 40 Watt daylight type lamps under a white reflector. This light is controlled by an automatic time switch, so that I do not have to worry about turning it on and off each day.

For my experiment, I used several different kinds of plants including African Violets, Maidenhair Ferns, Begonias, etc., and had them on step fixtures so that I could try them at different distances from the light. Saintpaulia Bi-color was placed 2½ feet below the light, Mentor Boy 3¼ feet and Orchid Lady 4 feet below light. For the first three months I had the switch set to run the light twelve hours on and twelve hours off. The violets looked very healthy, leaves being a rich dark green and large in size, but even on Bi-color the petioles seemed a trifle too long and plants showed no sign of blooming, so I changed the light period to

fourteen hours on and 10 hours off. Within a few weeks the violets started to bloom and Bi-color is now sixteen inches in diameter, the leaves being nearly four inches long and individual flowers one and three-quarter inches in diameter, with as many as six open at one time on a single flower stalk. Mentor Boy and Orchid Lady, being farther away from the light, were slower in blooming, but the flowers, although few in number, were much larger than on the same variety growing in my living room. I moved them both nearer the light, and they now show several bud clusters starting.

After trying this experiment for twelve months, I was so pleased that I had another light fixture of the same type installed using three 40 Watt Lamps. I am trying the regular white lamps in this fixture at the suggestion of one of the engineers in the General Electric Offices in New York, as he stated that a 40 Watt white Lamp would give me 380 more lumens of light than the daylight type I had been using. At the time of writing this, about six weeks after installation of my second light, it undoubtedly is too soon to determine which lamp is better for my purpose, but it does seem as though the leaves and flowers on the plants under the daylight type have a richer coloring.



This picture taken under the two tube fixture with daylight type bulbs.

My husband and I have been very much amused at the various comments of our friends regarding my experiment. One said he had never heard of growing plants in canned light and thought he had seen everything now, while another insists that I have some secret formula for feeding that I will not divulge. Personally I think a great deal of the success of my experiment, if I may call it that, is due to the even temperature, humidity that stays around 45 except on very damp days when it goes considerably higher, and the fact that there are no sudden drafts from the outside as we seldom use our outside basement entrance in the winter.

Another thing that has pleased me about my experiment is that I am able to move the plants up into my living room with no apparent setback. The first plant I brought upstairs was an extra calla lily begonia which for me is one of the most temperamental of house plants but which does make a most beautiful combination with dark blue African Violets. I put it first in a north window in my living room for two or three days, then moved it to the back of a south-west window for another couple of days; now it is growing near the front of that window and shows no signs of any setback. My three test African Violets, above mentioned, I have grown continuously under the Fluorescent light, but have changed other violet plants back and forth with no apparent ill effect.

In comparing my electric bills for the first twelve months of my experiment with those for the previous twelve months, I found that the additional cost averaged about \$1.00 a month, which I feel is very little for the immense amount of fun I have had.

I have had no extra heating expense, as we have an oil burner in our basement and in the very coldest part of last winter I was able to keep the temperature up to at least 65 degrees simply by opening the door to the boiler room. The thermometer controlling the oil burner is upstairs in our living room so that allowing the heat from the boiler room to escape into the rest of the basement has no effect on the amount of oil we burn.

## VIOLET PINS AND EAR RINGS

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LAURA E. GREEN

541 Denise Rd.

Rochester 12, N. Y.

## AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE

Jeanne Knoerle

It looks now as if African violets are going to college! At least, they are making a prominent appearance at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods college, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, where the Dean and a number of faculty members have become a part of that particular class of people known as African violet lovers.

The office of Sister Eugenia, S. P., Dean of the college, is made bright and friendly by the rows of pink, white and purple flowers that stand in the sun, on the sill of the window with a Southwestern exposure. All over campus, in classrooms, in the office of the Secretary, in unknown nooks and crannies, little Saintpaulias, Pink Beauties, and Blue Girls, rear their delicately tinted petals, much to the delight of their zealous cultivators.

Sister Eugenia, who began with one plant and much determination, has now sixteen plants and a great deal of satisfaction. Among her sixteen plants are a White Lady, with its crown of snowy blossoms; a red-violet, low-growing Red Frieda; a clear, translucent lavender-blue Ionantha; Blue Girl with large, blue-purple flowers; and a yet-to-be-seen Milwaukee of the blue purple variety.

Each year, Sister gives many of her plants away to other Sisters teaching at missions, thereby propagating, in her own special manner, African violet growing. She has started on their flower-growing career several other members of the faculty of the college, where now a spirit of friendly competition and mutual admiration has arisen.

As efficient and busy administrator of a liberal arts college, Sister's time is naturally much in demand. Formerly, when she was away at necessary conventions and meetings, her secretary, Sister Julia Marie, who is an African violet grower in her own right, was entrusted with the care of the violets. However, Sister was recently transferred to Indianapolis, where both she and her African violets are established at St. Agnes' academy.

Her plants, Sister Eugenia insists, are the best behaved things on campus - - - and, as a student, I am in no position to disagree. Contrary to prescribed laws, Sister waters her flowers at night, and, judging from results, they must enjoy their nightly drink.

Many are the characteristics ascribed to African violets, particularly in the pages of this magazine, and perhaps education is not an especially unusual one. However, from a quick look around campus, and in all those nooks and crannies, it appears that African violets, as well as students, can profit from a college career.

# ORIGINATION OF NEW AND IMPROVED VARIETIES OF AFRICAN VIOLETS THRU PROCESSES OF MUTATION AND SUBSEQUENT SELECTION

R. A. Brown, Jr.

(The following summary of subject material was generously given to the editor by Mr. Brown at the conclusion of his talk at the Cincinnati meeting.)

As many of you know, it is my Father who should be talking to you, but due to the state of his health, he is unable to travel or to appear before the public. In the past few years, we have been fortunate enough to develop and introduce several new or improved varieties of African Violets. Every introduction we have made has come directly through sports or mutations and subsequent leaf selections.

The biological meaning of the word sport is a plant or part of a plant which exhibits a sudden and spontaneous variation from the normal or usual type. A mutation is a well marked heritable variation in a whole plant or part of a plant. The two words, Sport and Mutation, mean practically the same thing.

Natural mutations and sports are undoubtedly caused by chance exposure to shock, change in temperature, electrical discharges, radiation, and other natural agencies that cause plant structure to vary. All plant growth and reproduction is based on the process of cell division and any change in the plant must come through a change in genes chromosomes that make up the cells. When speaking of mutations, we must exclude any change brought about through hybridization or cross pollination, as they are not mutations in any sense of the word.

The causes of mutations are not yet easy to recognize. In spite of the popular belief that environment is responsible for almost every thing a plant does, it appears that the causes of mutations are mainly intrinsic. That is, the change comes about from the inside of the plant and is not caused by environment. Possibly we believe this because of Kipling's "Just So Stories", in which he tells fantastic stories about how the leopard got his spots and how the elephant got his trunk. These stories illustrate the traditional belief in the inheritance of acquired characteristics; however we should not let them interfere with our serious thinking about plant sports and mutations.

Some mechanical means of helping induce mutations that have been tried are:

- Centrifugal Force
- Pressure
- Vibration and Shock
- Friction and Irritation

We have not experimented along these lines ourselves.

Another method of inducing mutations is through radiation. Under the general heading of Radiation, we find:

- Cosmic Rays

- Radiation
- Neutrons
- X Rays
- Ultra Violet Rays

We know nothing of these from our own experiences.

There are also a number of mutationally potent chemicals, among the better known are:

- Colchicine
- Indole Acetic Acid

Our experiences with the best known inducer, Colchicine, have not proved too satisfactory. If you use any of them be sure you follow the manufacturer's directions. However, we believe the best results come through natural mutations.

There are undoubtedly a great many other inducers of mutations. Some selectors seem to think that insect injury may bring about structural changes in plant life.

This is an unnamed science, open to all plant lovers. African Violets mutate very freely, and as they can be propagated from the leaf, they offer an excellent medium for the study of selecting. It is one field where no one can tell you what can or cannot be done. It remains for you to find out for yourself. Possibly the lack of a great deal of biological knowledge will prove to be a help rather than a hindrance.

As long as plants have been under cultivation, either as food or as ornamentals, there have been people who have made selections of plants. Their view was, and still is, to obtain better fruiting, growing or some other desirable change. Their selections may have been mutations or merely an improved strain. To our way of thinking, it is a mutation or new variety, even though it may carry many characteristics of the parent plant. There are no doubt a great number of plants under cultivation that the true parent plant is not known. I remember not long ago reading a news article that the parent plant of corn had been found in the State of New Mexico. Up until then the parent plant of maize had not been known. What we are leading up to is that there have been selectors and breeders of plants for a long, long time. The selectors preceded the hybridist for many generations, and yet, as far as I know, no name has ever been given this art. It certainly must be an art or science, even though it may be practiced by the layman as well as the learned. Dad says he can recall several instances during the last fifty years where selecting has been done by people with no scientific knowledge what-so-ever. He recalls very vividly his grandfather letting the first bunch and polebeans ripen on the vine to use for seed the next year.

Through this practice he grew excellent beans and his seed were sought after by his neighbors because of their earlier fruiting habits. He remembers his own father in his watermelon patch always allowing the largest melons to mature for seed. He built up a strain of melons that on good soil would weigh as high as ninety pounds each. Some fifty years later, I have read on numerous occasions newspaper articles of melons this size attracting a great deal of attention. All this may seem very distant from African Violets, but it is merely to show that there have been selectors of plant life possibly as long as man has been on this earth.

A few plants among thousands may make very slight change, and still fewer may make great changes. These changes may be caused by the reasons already outlined in the foregoing part of this talk. There are probably tens of thousands of mutations that are never found because of the nature of their growth or the method of propagation. The African Violet, as all of you know, is propagated from the leaf cutting and a great many of them are removed from portions of the plant that has never bloomed. This part of the plant has no doubt been subjected to a great deal of shock from over watering, under watering, not enough fertilizer, too much fertilizer, and other shocks too numerous to mention. To our way of thinking, some of these shocks are transferred to the leaves which could, and we believe do, cause some change in the cell structure of at least part of the plants. In the selection of these leaves, we have been able to assist nature in the creation of some rather dwarf plants as well as some plants with different shaped leaves. Some of these have also carried both color and size change in the blooms. We think that malformed leaves, whether caused from spray burn, fertilizer burn, insect wounds or other inquiry, also induce or cause change in the cell structure. We are relatively sure that this is a source of mutations

We have a violet we call "Raggedy Ann" that originated from a malformed leaf. We had this in both blue and pink, but, as there were so many different shaped leaves, we killed many of them because we thought they were infested with some insect or disease. At the present time, we have only the pink blooming, and hope that one of the others will be blue. We have also been able, through observation to select leaves that produce foliage much improved over the parent plant. By observing the formation of the flowers, and selecting leaves around the flower stem we have been able to help create a new flower. In a flower that is different from the other flowers on the plant, we make every effort to root this flower stem also. It is a practice with us, - however, it may be mostly theory, - that if we are trying to perpetuate a flower sport, we propagate the full leaf without removing any of the petiole. If we are trying to perpetuate a leaf change, we remove the petiole even into the leaf. Now, members, get that leaf into your bottle of water. In other words

our theory is that the point of inception of a leaf change is in the leaf, not in the stem. And that the inception of a bloom change is in the trunk of the plant. We will have to let the biologist or scientist prove this, because it takes too many labels and too much writing for us. After all, it is the new plants we are after and not rules for posterity to follow. As we see it, when you get a new plant, your work has only begun. We can show you several hundred plants with hardly any two carrying the same blooms or foliage, but most of these, while better than the parent plant, are not yet different enough to warrant a new name.

We do not question, while on this subject, that there will be a yellow violet, and it may be in the not too distant future.

In concluding, I would like to invite all of you to visit our greenhouses when you are in our section of the country. We are closed on Saturday afternoon and Sunday, but if you will let us know you are coming, we will be glad to arrange to be at home.

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# ORIGINATION OF NEW AND IMPROVED VARIETIES OF AFRICAN VIOLETS THRU PROCESSES OF HYBRIDIZATION AND SEEDING.

William Merkel

(Mr. Merkel very kindly provided the editor with the following brief of his talk at the Cincinnati Meeting April 29 and 30.)

There are only two ways in which it is possible to get new varieties of violets. One is by a variety developing a sport or mutant, and the other is by hybridizing. Since the discussion is about hybridizing, we will not consider the matter of sports, but it is well to keep in mind that some of our best and most interesting varieties have occurred as "sports", and this is a very important way of getting new varieties.

The actual mechanics of hybridization is so well described by Clarissa Harris in her article on "Botanical Analysis and Method of Pollination", that I would only be wasting valuable time repeating information with which we should all be well acquainted.

## PRE-DETERMINED OBJECTIVES

There should be a reason for each cross before it is actually made. In other words you should have a definite objective in mind. Do not make crosses in a haphazard way with only the thought of getting seed, but go about it in a systematic and intelligent manner. Before crossing ask yourself what you are actually trying to attain, then carefully pick your parent plants and try to incorporate their best qualities.

The flower, to be sure, is important. Carefully consider its size, color, position, or unusualness. An ideal plant should have a dark green, heavy quality foliage, with preferably a red coloring underneath. Or, perhaps you desire a foliage that is scalloped or serrated or even cupped. Not least in importance is the habit of growth of the plant. Always, if possible, select vigorous plants that appear fast growing and more disease resistant.

## PLANTS AFTER CROSSING

The general care of a seed plant does not differ to any great extent. Be sure to start off with clean healthy plants free of mite and thrips. It is well to keep all flowers pulled off the seed plants and to check daily for rotted petioles that may start the pedicel bearing the seed pod to rot. The seed plants may be repotted later, if necessary, without danger of losing the seed. The seed will ripen in four to six months.

## COLLECTING AND STORING

The seed pod should be removed when it changes to a brown color and starts to shrivel up. Be sure to take the pedicel with the pod and store in a dry place until the seed has completely dried. Then take the seed from the pod and again store in a dry place until ready for sowing. It is very

important to avoid keeping the seed where there is excessive humidity.

## SOWING SEED

Sowing seed is like baking a cake. Most every grower does it differently but usually with good results. We prefer the following method with violets.

We use only Canadian Peat Moss, for the following reasons - (1) less trouble with damping off due to fungus, (2) even moisture content, (3) has some food value which is an advantage over vermiculite.

I will briefly outline our method. Use either Azalea or bulb pots (easier to water). Fill to one inch from top with screened peat. Soak thoroughly with water. Sow seed lightly and evenly and then cover with a very thin layer of dry peat moss, just enough to barely cover seed. Do not water again as capillary action will moisten dry peat on top. Cover with one sheet of newspaper until seed starts to germinate (approximately two weeks) then remove paper. Until germination keep peat moist by watering from bottom. Don't keep saturated with water, but also do not allow peat to become dry. This is very important as germinated seed can easily dry up in a day or two.

When seed has germinated and appears above the peat be sure to avoid drafts which may cause damping off (rotting due to fungus growth). We have been able to check this when it starts by one application of potassium permanganate at the rate of 1 oz. to 4 gal. of water.

## TRANSPLANTING

After the seedlings have appeared above the peat they are transplanted into flats in about 4 to 6 weeks depending on the time of the year. In any case they should be taken out of the pots just as soon as they are large enough to handle.

We use a mixture of one half leaf mold and one half soil for the first transplanting and do not incorporate any inorganic fertilizer in the soil at this time. We space our seedlings about 2" apart and leave them in the flats until they touch leaves. They are then potted into 2" pots.

Your soil should always be sterilized to avoid crown rot and nematodes. Also spray your plants regularly. Always keep in mind that the purpose of spraying is not to clean up an infestation but to prevent one.

We are all aware of the numerous varieties of violets and duplicate names of those varieties on the market today and the general confusion of it all. Our Society is doing a splendid job of sorting out the duplicates and in the near future we should have it pretty well cleared up.

Continued Page 29



## MY PRIZE PLANT

Bettye Boyette

My African Violet RED HEAD that won "Best In The Show" prize at our Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Spring Show is less than one year old and measures nineteen and three quarters inches across. I bought the cutting (known as a sucker cutting) the first of last May and it had just been taken off the parent plant; therefore, it did not have any roots. I placed it in a small pot of sand and the rooting time took about two or three weeks. When it began to show signs of growing I put it in a pot of soil consisting of 1 part sterilized humus, one part sand and one part peat moss. I also use charcoal in the bottom of all my violet pots.

I started watering this plant as well as all my other violets with sterilized liquid sheep fertilizer, which I made by taking a gallon glass jar and filling it about one third full of fertilizer. I then fill the jar with warm water and let it set twenty four hours before using any of the water. By that time the dry fertilizer has become water soaked and has settled to the bottom of the jar, leaving the brown liquid on top. I have a quart jar which I use for watering. I fill this jar a little over half full of this brown liquid and finish filling the jar with warm water, as I never water my violets

with cold water. I then take a small flower bulb syringe and go around the edge of the pot and between the leaf stems, watering until a little of the water soaks through to the bottom of the pot. I water all my violets this way, and keep a small sponge in my hand so, if any of the water does happen to get on the leaves or stems, I can immediately soak it up with the sponge.

I water my violets with this solution about every ten days, and each time I draw off some fresh fertilizer water for my plants, I fill the jar again with warm water and let it set until time to use it again. When the water ceases to be a dark brown color, I know that all the good part of that water has been used and that it is time to start over again with fresh fertilizer.

I make up a warm Ivory soap suds every two weeks and use a small sponge to gently scrub each leaf and stem. Then I turn the warm water on very slowly and gently rinse the soap off the leaves, soaking up all the water that clings to the leaves with a clean sponge.

I use Vitamin B1 every two weeks in warm water, watering all plants from the top of the pot, and I am happy to say that, by being very careful, I have not had a casualty yet.

I keep my violets in the house and try to keep the same temperature with moisture. All my violets were kept in the South windows all winter while there was little heat from the sun, but now I have moved them to the East windows, where they get the early morning sun. I have never had an insect or disease on any of my plants.

\*\*\*\*\*

African Violets, White Waterlily \$1.50;  
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Lace, Duponts, Amazons and other new  
varieties. Send for list.

Mrs. T. C. Bee, Rt. 3, Newnan, Ga.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Origination of New and Improved Varieties Cont. from Page 28

In closing it brings to my mind the old saying the "there is no child like my child". To be sure, we are all proud of our own violet seedlings, and especially so, if they appear to be just a little different. However, before we put them on the market, let us be a little more critical of ourselves and be sure that we are introducing either something outstanding or different or at least a definite improvement on some existing variety. If we all do that I am sure, as collectors, we will be making our hobby a more interesting one.

# SAINTPAULIA

Alex Laurie

## Native habitat

High humidity - 60-70%  
High temperature - 65°  
Soil high in organic matter  
Shade

## Home Conditions

Normally  
Low humidity - 10-25%  
High temperature - 75°  
Fluctuating -

## Gas conditions

Too much or too little light

Important that native habitat conditions be approximated.

## Propagation

Mediums - sharp sand  
vermiculite  
sand and peat

Soak leaves - 5 min. in colloidal or wettable sulphur  
(3 teaspoons to gallon)  
to reduce mite.

Bottom heat - 65°-70°

Hormones hasten rooting  
(shake off surplus)

Takes 4-8 weeks before potting.

## Soil Mixture - Fine roots (coarse soil)

2 soil  
1 sand and well rotted manure  
2 leafmold (coarse)

pH - 6.5

Nitrate 10 ppm

Phosphorus 5 ppm

Potassium 10 ppm

Calcium 150 ppm

Sterilize with steam against nematodes.

Use pressure cooker to generate steam.

Shifting from 2½-4 inch pots - use same mixture.

Fertilize only after roots show on outside of ball. Then use a complete fertilizer

(1 teaspoon to 1 quart) every 2 weeks.

In mixing soil add 1 teaspoon of 4-12-4 to 2 quarts of soil.

Can use various named liquid fertilizers.

Watering - Overhead or subirrigation

If use plastic or glazed pots - water overhead.

If use porous clay pots - subirrigate, let drain and empty saucer.

Wick watering or constant level watering should be used with more care.

Water should be heated to 65°-70° if used overhead to avoid ring spot.

If subirrigated, colder water may be used. If watering in the morning, cold water is alright overhead (leaf temperature is low then).

Humidity - maintain as high as possible

Pans, fine mist, air conditioning.

## Light

No direct sun - East or North window year round. West and South - fall and spring.

Need 400-800 footcandles.

400 f.c. will grow.

600-800 f.c. will flower.

Use light meter.

Aeration - Don't keep in too close an atmosphere.

Temperature - 60°-65° constant. May go to 70°.

## Troubles

Drop of flowers - gas leaks.

For thrips - use DDT, Isotox, Parathion (precautions)

Wilting of lower leaves - overwatering.

Mite - curling leaves on center, greyish appearance. Use Thiocide, sulphur, sodium selenate (1 oz. to 30 gal.), wash off foliage.

Mealybugs - Parathion dust (Use with great care in home), Azobenzene dust.

Nematodes - soil sterilization  
Parathion (4 lbs. to 100 gal.)

Very long petiole - to dark overwatering.

## Failure to flower

1. Too dark
2. Too many leaves in center
3. Overwatering
4. Overpotting
5. Fluctuating temperature
6. Gases

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# THE NEW DUPONT VIOLETS

John Good

The new duPont Violets will be distributed for the first time during the fall of 1949. This will be welcome news to those who have long awaited this event. It will be doubly welcome to those of us who have had to turn down the many requests of our friends until we could propagate and adequate supply for distribution.

Since the original duPont Blue and Lavendar Pink varieties were introduced, Mrs. Wm. K. duPont continued an intensive program of hybridization and selection for a number of years. Recognizing that the strain had inherent qualities not possessed by existing varieties, Mrs. duPont maintained a rigorous standard of perfection and only those seedlings of superior merit were used in her breeding program. The resulting seedlings showed a continuing improvement over the original varieties, and after a period of years, a very noticeable increase in size of flowers and range of colors could be observed.

In 1947, Mrs. duPont decided to disseminate her best seedlings thru a commercial firm and we, fortunately, were selected for this undertaking. Realizing that a large quantity of plants would be required for the introductory offer, we deferred the introduction until we had assembled a considerable supply.

The first hybrids to be introduced are in five shades of blue and one shade of pink. In each particular group there is a variation in the foliage but the colors are constant. These are as follows:

duPont Blue #1. Extremely dark blue.  
duPont Blue #2. Dark blue. Lighter than #1.

duPont Blue #3. Medium blue. Lighter than #2.

duPont Blue #4. Light violet blue. Lighter than #3.

duPont Blue #5. Pale blue. Lighter than #4.

duPont Silver Pink. Light lavendar pink with silver overcast.

The distinguishing characteristics of the new duPont hybrids are numerous but may be grouped in three major classifications.

1. Increased size of flowers. Under ideal conditions on mature plants we have noted flowers measuring two and one half inches across. All of the new hybrids produce flowers of larger size than any existing varieties.
2. Improvement in color. A wide range in shades of blue has been produced. Colors are intense and of great clarity.
3. Increased size and beauty of foliage. It may truly be said that, if the new hybrids did not flower, they would be grown solely for the beauty of the foliage. Leaves of immense size are produced on mature plants in a symmetrical fashion.

It is difficult to speak of the new duPonts in anything but superlatives. They are truly the aristocrats among Violets and have created sensational interest. Due to the increase in vigor of the plants, they are easy to grow and will reward everyone with a profusion of flowers.

We are continuing a hybridization program and numerous improvements are appearing in our present group of seedlings. These will be rigorously selected and only those plants of superior merit will be saved for future dissemination.

The duPont Hybrids attain perfection when grown in five and six inch pots. Due to the size of the plants, we recommend a more liberal use of fertilizers, especially in mature plants.

It is our opinion that the new duPont Violets will give impetus to the popularity of the African Violet to an extent beyond our fondest dreams. Of one point we are certain - a great many Violet lovers will derive increased satisfaction in growing their deservedly favorite flower.

## ATLANTA SHOW

An African Violet Show, under the auspices of the H. G. Hastings Co. will be held in their store October 14 and 15 in Atlanta, Georgia.

## LOST MEMBER

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# PUT DOWN A LEAF

## OR

### THE CURSE OF AN ARDENT COLLECTOR

Regina and Warren Gottshall

"Put down a leaf" was part of a bit of advice received several years back. The rest of it ran like this, and we quote, "I do hope that you will get the leaf habit - propagation is one of the most fascinating parts of being a violet collector. - - You simply must learn to grow leaves successfully. Buy a few new leaves and grow plants for exchange". This advice came, not in its entirety as noted above, but rather has been extracted from a series of letters received over the course of several months. These kind (?) words were accepted with reverence and adopted with a vengeance - adding a few innovations of our own.

Does all this sound familiar? Are you beginning to see the truth behind these words? They are in reality only a mirror's reflections of the joys, plights, and predicaments of every Saintpaulia fancier who has ever "put down a leaf".

First of all you start out, as every "collector" has, with Blue Boy (the plant, of course, being identified ages after you acquired it from the local florist) and probably, if you considered yourself lucky at the time, a "pink" and a "white". Then along comes the above advice accompanied with the remark that "African violets are so easy to raise from leaf". So - you take your creative genius in hand and pinch off a leaf or two; carefully prepare a cheese glass of water with the prescribed waxed paper over it, held in place by a rubber band, and then punch in the paper the required number of holes. After seemingly countless ages you see the fine, white, hairlike roots appear. Oh joy! Oh joy! After another seeming decade, you see wee plants appearing at the base of the stem (you, of course, have not been enlightened as yet to the word "petiole"). Out comes the leaf and its young, born in the light of day, and you plunk it into a pot of dirt (the pot is probably too big and the dirt too heavy) and within a day or two the whole thing has rotted ignobly. This procedure is tried over and over again - because African violet collectors are brave and persistent souls - then comes the day when SUCCESS is yours. From this time on leaves are pinched recklessly and each clumsy accident of your own, or that of the dog, or your offspring, presents you with a few more leaves for propagating (simply because you cannot bear to throw the "dear things" away). You have rapidly built up a "collection" of small plants that you "just love to watch grow".

Everything is lovely up to this time, BUT, just about here you hear of that grand lady, Miss Marion Thomas and her Round Robins (or lately the Society's own grand "boid", the Pigeon). You join! The

first real thing you discover is that leaves should never be started in water but in peat. You try that - with the above discouraging results at first but you finally succeed with this method. Then the thing to use is vermiculite (whatever that is), ditto, etc. The fact that you were, by this time, having practically 100% success with the water method has nothing to do with it, for you have graduated from being a mere creative genius into being an experimenter as well.

To your surprise you now learn that everyone has a Blue Boy so you have to keep all your lovely young plants yourself. You are further enlightened to the fact that the pink is Pink Beauty and the white is White Lady and both are patented varieties and thus prohibited by law from being propagated except by holders of permits. Now you either shrink every time you see a lawyer's name mentioned in the newspaper, or you do get yourself a permit - just prior to discovering that everyone has White Lady and Pink Beauty.

By this time you have made considerable progress as a propagator and become an "expert", so begin to further your collection abilities and the varieties soon mount up (a leaf being taken from each new one as it arrives). Finally comes the Day of Days when you manage, by bribery, coercion or your Old Age Pension, to secure a dime sized leaf of Marine. "Now", you say to yourself "I really have got something to do some swapping with". You "put down the leaf", nurse it motherly, and as you are really proficient by this time, manage to raise a crop of plants - or one. You are now ready to swap, either leaves of the "one" or wee plants of the "crop". Oh joy! Oh joy! (After all, Life is just one joy after the other.) You take your pen, pencil, or typewriter in hand and write countless letters offering to swap Marine for "What have you?". Remember your horror when you discovered that, while you were raising the plant from the tencent piece, everyone else had done so, too.

The pitiful state has come. You sit down in your bewilderment and view the confusion about you. There are so many violets in the windows there is no possible chance of fading the rug; the radiator tops are laden, the dinner table, the buffet, the stairway to the second floor, the enclosed porch that became a dire necessity, the plant-house (or greenhouse) built at the price of your child's college education. You finally realize that you should throw them all out (you are merely momentarily discouraged), or at least part of them. But - where to start? You love Trilby, Orchid

Beauty and Mary Wac, and Heaven help you, you realize, if you ever lose the labels on them. Mentor Boy and Bicolor are such wonderful bloomers! Neptune and Commodore (or is that Commander or Dickson's Purple?) have such lovely leaves. And, even if each one of your Ionanthas has a different name, they are still wonderful. (In the meantime, you accidentally break off another leaf while watering and unconsciously plunk it down in your favorite rooting medium that you are "experimenting" with at the moment.)

Finally the undeniable day arrives when you are faced with either of these facts - the lady from the Welfare is waiting outside to take you "over the hills to the poorhouse" or, someone OFFERS you a Red duPont and you haven't the smallest fraction of an inch in which to put it.

Put down a leaf? Yes, but do it with restraint - for a definite purpose. Put down only what you know you can dispose of or to replace an old plant that has become straggly or worn out. Be strong enough to discard accidentally broken leaves. Keep space for the new and good varieties that are being and will be originated. Be honest enough to recognize a variety that is inferior and duplications where they occur and practical enough to discard them immediately. Both collecting and propagating are joys, but only so long as we do not go to extremes. Be methodical - not just a creature of habit. Put down a leaf - but wisely.

(Famous last words - "Do as I say, not as I do".)



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## LET'S VISIT

Let's visit with Charlotte Hughes in Huntington, West Virginia, and see her "Violet Playhouse". May we caution, though, against "doing as we did". Courtesy is a valuable virtue and has bought entree where gold would not.

We arrived after nine one evening; were met at the train by husband Charlie, resplendent in a bow-tie with electric lights (one red and one green), and driven to the Hughes' home. We did have the courtesy to "warn" them ahead of time that we were coming. Before going further, and because we can hear you saying "What manner of man is Mr. Hughes?", we will elaborate about the electrified bow-tie. There is a definite place in a written introduction to the Hughes for the bow-tie, for it gives you early knowledge of what to expect. We went prepared with a supply of handkerchiefs and a towel or two for we had been there before and knew what to expect. Charlie Hughes is a joy in this life, with a main purpose of making people happy through laughter. While there, we laughed until tears streamed down our faces and cramps doubled our stomachs. Anything further about Mr. Hughes would be overdoing it, so from now on, he is yours to discover and enjoy.

Your visit will have formalities and a few of the courtesies of life with introductions at the door and a quiet but impatient chat in the living room. (If Mrs.

Hughes is not at home, Mr. Charlie will take you to the "playhouse" and appear as enlightened as to their care and identity as is his wife.) We barged in the front door, paraded through the house and came to a halt only at the door of the greenhouse (built by Mr. Hughes as a playhouse for his wife and her violets), and then simply because of awe. If you have any love for Saintpaulias, the scene is breath-taking. You will not believe it. We had to sleep on it (after coffee and ham sandwiches out there until midnight) and spend another day to enjoy just part of it.

Size of this wonderland? Not what you would think or expect from the above. It is a lean-to type 13 x 16 built onto a porch. This porch is, of course, also utilized and enlarges the over-all space. Benches are built around the sides and through the middle. Additional space is provided by the erection of 12 inch glass shelves raised every 13 inches above the benches and more shelves are hung over the center benches on a pipe frame suspended from the ceiling. Not an inch is wasted but even so it is inadequate by about 500 square feet. One neat trick you will notice is that the larger plants are raised above the benches by placing them upon up-turned pots. This affords space for their spread and allows additional space in the benches. As all Mrs. Hughes' plants are watered from above, this does not present a problem.

How many plants are housed in the "playhouse"? We have no idea, for in addition to the large collection of named varieties, there must be close to 1000 seedlings. It is the latter plants that will attract your attention, with the exception of a few named plants and they only because of their size: - such plants as Blue Bird with a spread of 18 inches, leaf blades  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide by 4 inches long and My Second Prize with a spread of 22" and the leaf blades  $3\frac{3}{4}$  by 4 inches. (Incidentally, we have recently seen three plants that were identical; one, the above Second Prize, another labeled Summer Skies and the third Merkel's Brilliant. There is no claim presented here that these three varieties are one and the same, it is merely that we are at a loss as to which of the plants are incorrectly named.)

After collecting African violets for fifteen years, Mrs. Hughes decided to try her hand at raising seedlings and used, for most of her start, the contents of two seed pods from Purple Beauty. The resulting plants are as beautiful as any named variety and a few were, in our opinion, a bit superior.

One quick walk about the place and we were immediately attracted to one particular plant. A lovely blue bloom on very dark shiny foliage, broadly ovate with rounded tip and bent edges. The plant (tentatively named Blue Dream, pending test and registration) is quite compact and bears blooms in clusters of 7 to 8 per very short stem, borne in a nest just above the center of the plant. In color the flower ranges between VB 3 and BV3. It was the most outstanding plant we had seen for a long time - being at least as dark as McFarland's Blue Warrior but with smoother foliage.

Two other plants that bear mention at this time are her Red Surprise and Painted Ballerina (also tentatively named pending registration). Red Surprise was named because it was just that. Mrs. Hughes had found it in full bloom high on a top shelf. The plant habit is droopy; leaf edges wavy, broadly spade shaped and of a glossy, medium olive green color. Leaf edges are a lighter shade and older mature leaves take on this lighter cast. Blooms are borne in clusters of 7 to 11 and it is very prolific with its airy flowers on long erect stems. The buds open quite dark with light patches at the joints of the lobes and the mature flowers seem to take in the entire range from RV 3 to VR 1, with a purple eye at the tube and the more rose shades at the edges.

Painted Ballerina has typical and beautiful "girl" type foliage but the blooms - to make use of a shopworn phrase are, "out of this world". It is really a "painted" bicolor. The two top lobes, standing upright and much separated from the three rounded lower lobes are a shade darker than VR 1, as are the tips of the lower lobes whose centers are pencilled in a general color about RV 5. The foliage is

deeply and evenly crenated with light edges - diminishing somewhat from the base to the tip. The large cream spot at the axil of the leaf is branched with the veins.

Mrs. Hughes' Rose of Tralee needs no introduction here for it was exhibited in all its glory at the convention in Cincinnati. Most amazing of all this beauty - to us at least - was the fact that these plants were but 10 months old when we saw them and compared in size and flourescence with all her older plants. Charlotte's statement that her first blooms appeared when the seedlings were but  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months old was checked by very reliable sources. We had previously seen them when they were 2 month old and their size was beyond comprehension. If you can imagine a collection of seedlings whose foliages range from light yellowed green to dark brassiness, from compactness to light spreading airyness, whose blooms take in the general accepted color range for Saintpaulias, then you will know the sight to be expected.

Naturally, the reason for this wonderful success must be discovered, and fortunately, there is no secret about it. Charlotte will tell anyone merely for the asking, as she does not think it anything unusual as to preparation or application. Start with preparation for the seed - low pots, 6 or 8 inches across, are first sterilized with boiling water; filled three-fourths full of agricultural peat and more boiling water poured through that, then fine vermiculite (through a flour sieve) is spread on top. The vermiculite absorbs moisture from the scalded peat and is set aside until cool. Seed is spread on top, by tapping the paper that contains them for even distribution, and not pressed into the mica. Cover with a sheet of glass and set in an East or North window. (Mrs. Hughes advises that her sowings received about an hour and a half morning sun during the month of June). Moisture is wiped from the glass as it collects.

"Never let the seed bed dry out" Charlotte advises, "but keep a little water in the saucer in which the pot stands." When seedlings are three to four weeks old raise one side of the glass by using a pot label or piece of lattice to permit access of fresh air. Seedlings are moved when they develop one leaf large enough to get hold of to pull them from the soil.

Transplanting is done into flats 18 x 20 inches with plenty of drainage holes bored in the bottom. Add peat moss, scald then add about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches of vermiculite. Small furrows were made in the vermiculite by pressure of a narrow wood slat. Fill furrows, which are very small, with Vitacum. Mrs. Hughes uses an ear syringe to dampen the Vitacum with Hyponex solution (1 teaspoon to a gallon of warm water). The point of a knife is used for the "holes" into which the small seedlings are planted. Vermiculite is gently pressed about them and then they are "settled" by the Hyponex solution from the syringe. They are planted fairly close - 150 per flat. Mrs.

Hughes' flats were moved out-doors, covered with glass at night and with glass and paper during the day, if the sun reached their location. They were covered during rainy weather. At all times, when the glass was over the flats, it was kept raised with pieces of wood for ventilation.

Further transplanting was done from flat to flat whenever the leaves started to touch. The same content of peat moss and vermiculite was used each time and always scalded. By this method 27 flats were eventually filled. When the plants reached a spread of about four inches they were planted permanently into four inch pots. No smaller pots were used at any time. Each transplanting received its watering of the Hyponex solution.

Final potting mixture contains the following:-

- 1 bu. peat moss
- 2 bu. leaf mold (woods soil)
- 1 lb. bone meal
- ½ lb. Sacco or Vigoro
- ¼ bu. well rotted cow or sheep manure.

All is screened through hardware cloth with the fine rootlets put back into the soil to be used. Mrs. Hughes advises the use of Canadian or Michigan peat, rather than humus, as the latter "packs and you have a moldy pot." The mixture is turned onto a concrete slab and sprayed with water until it has a fine velvety feel from turning and aeration "not wet, just alive with active bacteria."

Pots are then arranged in a pan about 2 to 3 inches deep; drainage placed in the bottom, "Never lay a piece of crocking flat but raise it on the edge of another piece", Charlotte cautions. Fill with the soil mixture and pour boiling water over the lot and cover with newspaper until cool. Set plants that have not previously been watered.

You now have the prescription for "SUCCESS". at least for Charlotte Hughes.

Naturally it took a letter after we returned home to inquire of her "favorite named variety". "Neptune", she replied, "with its tailored look, smooth finish and ideal blossom".

We admit that in this introduction to Charlotte Hughes we forgot - Charlotte Hughes. The accompanying photograph will have to make this introduction for us, and a visit to the "Violet Playhouse" will prove our contention that she is someone you have known all your life. You will realize that here it is not just a case of "green thumb" but rather of complete "know-how". You will come away starry eyed but loving both Mr. and Mrs. Hughes - and the seedlings. "The Visitors"

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# YOUR HINT HUNTER

Phyllis Ferrall  
Rt. 5, Box 551  
Battle Creek, Mich.

Here is your old Hint Hunter again, and I suppose the memories of our convention still linger with those fortunate enough to attend.

Now it is September and we are all working diligently to get our violets in proper condition for winter.

The humidity must be watched closely. Don't forget it is tricky at this time of year.

I am trying the following feeding system which I learned at the Convention on three of my plants:

1st week feed Vitamin B1

2nd week feed Super Phosphate

3rd week feed Vitamin B1

4th week feed Kem or Hyponex

5th week feed B1

6th week feed Sheep Tea (my own idea) then start all over again.

I have been afraid it is too much feeding so I am feeding only three plants thusly.

The thought of cold weather brings to our attention the starting of small plants in the basement without heat. Lucille Peck has used this method successfully: Take large metal trays and place pots as close as possible in them. Box over completely with a cardboard carton, extra large ones, so your trays will be entirely enclosed. Cut a hole about 6 x 6 inches in top and place a small window glass over hole, so you can see at a glance if your lights are working at all times. It is well to have a small thermometer in each box to tell the temperature correctly. Now with this

method, you must use a thermostat with a 40 or 60 watt bulb on an extension. The control keeps it at a proper heat.

I have seen this work and her plants are beautiful.

We have always insisted that African Violets shed their lower leaves when they become old. But scientists now say they have discovered that soluble salts collected on the rims of clay pots cause the death of leaf stems. One solution for this is to place wax paper or paper doilies around the rim of the pot to prevent leaves or petioles touching.

Mrs. O. C. Trinkle of Louisville, Ky., makes cardboard collars for her pots and is thrilled with the results.

I have tried all of these and I believe I am quite sold on Mrs. Erwin Richter's (of Cincinnati, Ohio) little trick of placing a strip of aluminum foil around the top of each rim. It doesn't take up the moisture like the other materials and it looks quite gay as well as successfully keeping the leaves away from the pot rims.

Dr. Laurie tells us not to fertilize baby plants. He says nitrogen is bad for tiny ones.

Mrs. C. T. Hughes of Huntington, W. Va., uses Hyponex to water her baby plants and she raises outstanding seedlings.

## Editors Note:

When writing to Mrs. Ferrall, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

For "something new" in your collection, we are pleased to offer a new series of DuPont hybrids in our Fall catalog.

Most outstanding of these DuPont hybrids is the "DUPONT SILVER PINK" - a light lavender pink with silver overcast - \$2.50.

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Fertilizer — Hyponex 7 oz. 50¢  
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## CLUB NEWS

### NEW CALIFORNIA SOCIETY

The new chapter formed during February 1949 in San Gabriel Valley of the African Violet Society, closed its charter on June 24, 1949 with forty-seven active members. The officers to serve are: Mrs. Ernest Mackey, President; Mrs. J. Nelson Walters, First Vice President and Program Chairman; Mrs. Robert Schrecengost, Second Vice President and Ways and Means Chairman; Mrs. Morris Skadrin, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ernest Ruebel, Treasurer; and Mrs. G. Leslie Davis, Publicity; Mrs. T. J. Banks, Corresponding Secretary.

On June 25, 1949 this new group acted as host and hostess to the Los Angeles, Manhattan, Long Beach, Bay City and Santa Monica, Chapters at a pot luck luncheon. The tables were decorated in yellow and green with potted Saintpaulias as the center pieces. Tiny nut cups with five African violets made in color was clipped to each cup. Mrs. Mackey, the president announced that luck numbers were placed on the bottom of several nut cups for the many prizes given out on this occasion. This was voted a unique way of drawing and much fun and excitement was had. Garden tours to growers of African violets were made during the afternoon especially enjoyed was the Wonder Gardens owned by Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Banks, both members of this society.

Thousands of plants in all stages were on display. This is the largest retail display room of African violets in Southern California. During all regular meetings of this chapter, violet leaves and plants are on display and for sale to the small collector.

Mrs. Holmes Harris, Regional Director, guest speaker of the day highlighted the National Convention, held recently in Cincinnati, Ohio. Meetings adjourned during the summer months.

### LANSING MICHIGAN CLUB

From Lansing, Michigan, comes word that a club was organized there on March 9, 1949, and has grown to a membership of 25. The first meetings were held in the homes, but as the membership grew, it was decided to hold the meetings in the social rooms of the East Michigan Fire Station. This will enable the club to expand without any limit of members.

Officers for this group are:  
President, Mrs. Edwin Anderson  
1st Vice-President, Mrs. Lester Nichols  
2nd Vice President, Mrs. Stanley Peck  
Recording Secy., Mrs. Rollin Hare  
Treasurer, Mrs. Earl Bugbee.

Send Club News to —  
Maxine Wangberg  
1920 W. 3rd St.  
Perry, Iowa.

### COLUMBUS SOCIETY

On March 23, eighteen African violet enthusiasts met at the Parkview Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, for the purpose of organizing a local Violet Society. Committees were appointed, the name chosen and definite meeting dates were decided upon.

The first official meeting of the Columbus African Violet Society was held on April 20th, and the charter closed with a membership of 31.

The following officers were named for the year,

President, Mrs. Carlos Evans  
Vice-President, Mrs. Terry Dixon  
Treasurer, Mrs. Dan Letherman  
Recording Secy., Mrs. E. B. Caldwell  
Corres. Secy., Mrs. J. N. Howard  
Asst. Corres. Secy., Mrs. L. A. Minnick  
Reporter, Mr. B. G. Seeds.

Plans are being made for an African violet show in the near future.

### NASHVILLE CLUB

The Nashville African Violet Club was organized on February 8, 1949, at the home of Mrs. Charles Rochedieu, with a charter membership of 30.

Officers elected were:  
President, Mrs. Alex Taylor  
Vice-President, Mrs. Charles Rochedieu  
Recording Secy., Mrs. P. L. Smith  
Treasurer, Mr. S. H. Wilhoite  
Corresponding Secy., Mrs. R. H. Pride

By laws were read and plans for the coming year were made. A round table discussion on problems pertaining to African violet culture and care was then held.

Committee chairman were named as follows:

Program, Mrs. Charles Rochedieu  
Shows, Mrs. Sam Nichols  
Telephone, Mrs. J. C. Bamford  
Philanthropy, Mrs. R. L. McCracken.

### WEBSTER GROVES SOCIETY

On February 10, 1949, the Webster Groves, Mo. Chapter of the African Violet Society was organized. The membership was limited to 24 to enable the members to meet in the homes.

Officers for this club are:  
Mrs. Carl F. Schroeder, President  
Mrs. T. M. Farris, Vice-President  
Mrs. A. E. Zimmerman, Secretary  
Mrs. A. W. Greve, Treasurer.

An African violet display was shown at the Webster Grove Garden show held in the Masonic Temple on May 14 & 15, 1949.

## TENNESSEE VALLEY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Fifty-two charter members are listed in the newly organized Tennessee Valley African Violet Club which held its initial meeting May 10th.

The Club was sponsored by the Knoxville Saintpaulia Society and elected the following officers for the year:

President — Mrs. J. W. Smouse  
First V. Pres. — Mrs. Manus Sharp  
Second V. Pres. — Mrs. Lloyd Johnson  
Corr. Sec'y — Mrs. W. S. Kennedy, Sr.  
Recording Sec'y — Mrs. D. S. Turner  
Treasurer — Mrs. W. L. Strange

Meetings are held the second Tuesday in each month at Sear's Club room.

## LONG BEACH SOCIETY

In November, 1948, the Long Beach African Violet Society was formally organized, and in January, 1949, the following officers were elected for the year:

Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, President  
Miss May Symond, Vice-President  
Mrs. Dorice Trigg, Secretary  
Mrs. A. J. Maxham, Treasurer

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month in the homes. Year books have been completed containing the members names and addresses, officers, by-laws, date and place of each meeting and the program and speakers for each meeting. This group now has a membership of 31.

A Navy Hospital project is well under way, and the club has honored Mr. Harvey Cox, a veteran of World War #1, with a life membership.

"In answering the advertisements in this magazine please mention that you saw the ad in the African Violet Magazine."

When writing to the members of the magazine staff please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

### FISCHER'S NEW FANCY DOUBLE HYBRIDS!

Growers and Hybridizers of African Violets

MORE THAN 50,000 SOLD ANNUALLY!

Fischer's Double Margaret	\$2.00
The very best of the dark blue doubles	
Foliage has a decided rippled leaf.	

Fischer's Double Dark Lavender Selections	\$2.00
Dark lavender blooms, assuming a two-tone effect as they open.	

Fischer's Double Light Lavender Selections	\$2.00
Beautiful pale shades of lavender. A delightfully pleasing color effect.	

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Clear light blue shades. A beautiful contrast with the darker shades.	

If you purchase one each of the above collection, we will send you FREE one unnamed Double Seedling, color characteristics undetermined.

Send for our New Fall price-list which will include our popular "MY LADY SERIES" and many others.

We are shipping to all parts of the country. Plants arriving in excellent condition. Postage prepaid on orders of \$5.00 or more, otherwise add 10¢ per plant. No C.O.D. orders accepted.

FISCHER'S GREENHOUSES  
LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

# African

## Violets



Lovely new DuPont Hybrids now available, immediate shipment.

DuPont Silver Pink, DuPont No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in the blue shades. No. 1 the darkest, deep rich blue in group No. 5 the lightest pale blue in this color group. \$2.50 each. Complete collection of 6, \$12.00. New Double Orchid \$1.75 each.

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Freida, Red Head, Bi-Color, Amethyst, Purple Prince, Kewensis and DuPont Blue \$1.00 each.

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Orders for \$5.00 or more sent insured, postpaid, under add 50¢.

We carry a complete line of violet accessories. Certified soil, insecticide, and plant food. Free revised catalog on request.



PROLIFEROL a new

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Neutritive elements in Proliferol are sufficient to feed plants during difficult growth periods. May be used in place of regular water, as often as watering is necessary. Bottle of 8 Capsules . . . \$1.00 (each capsule makes 1 Gal. solution.)

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